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

Series IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

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The Miracle of our Lives, 1936.

# Miracle of our lives —

## THE MYSTERY OF OUR SURVIVAL

A Passover Sermon, April 11, 1936

*at The Temple*

I wonder what passed through the minds of Pharaoh and his hosts as they pursued the children of Israel who were fleeing from Egypt. What thoughts passed through their minds as their chariots rolled on and their swords and spurs flashed as they pursued the slaves.

The beautiful song of Miriam in the Book of Exodus, tries to portray the ideas which flashed through the minds of the enemy. The enemy said: "I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the booty. My desire shall be satisfied upon them. I will lay bare my sword and my sword will destroy them" This was Pharaoh four thousand years ago and this is Hitler four thousand years later.

Where are they now -- these men for whom our ancestors built the citadels of Pithom and Rameses -- these mighty swordsmen and charioteers who pursued the people of Israel? The sands of time have completely covered them up. Nothing remains of them. What remains of other enemies of Israel -- those who laid waste to the Kingdoms of Israel and Judea, the proud Assyria, the mighty Babylon? Through the ages all of them are fairly obliterated. They are of interest only to students of Archaeology.



The miracle of this little people that never conquered the world and never subjugated the world, never erected pyramids or empires, *is that* this small people continued an unbroken chain of historic continuity, outlived all great empires and is now, twenty centuries later, even more numerous and energetic, more hungry for life than in the past.

How often, my friends, as you read the Jewish history, do you come across the phrase "strengthened by the enemies of Israel" - a phrase which you find in the Book of Lamentations. *Pi 2 25 PIC 1581 A* "We have *swallowed her up*" them up." How often do you come across, as you read the story of the historic Bible "Hep, hep, Jerusalem is destroyed!" How often do you come across the cry echoed in Germany "The Jew shall perish like a beast." What weapons were not forged and used against this people? From the laws of Pharaoh in Egypt which destroyed every male Jewish child to the Nuremberg laws of 1935. And yet here we are - living, achieving, creating, fighting our foes as valiantly as in the past - 16 million strong.

If you ask for any miracle in history, here is the supreme miracle. A great Christian world is celebrating today the miracle of the resurrection of its Master who was crucified and descended into the tomb but who rose again. I submit in all humility, my friends, this greater miracle - an arisen people, ~~an~~ an even more crucified people who more than once through its long tragic history was nailed to a cross and cried "Eli, Eli" - a people which descended into the valley of the shadow of death time and again and arose again resurrected.



We are a people sharply critical of ourselves, ~~of our weaknesses.~~  
Think how often the prophets of Israel despaired of the ~~people of~~ Israel  
and called it a sinful and backsliding people! ~~And yet~~ the miracle has  
happened - the miracle of self-redemption - a miracle of repentance  
and refashioning <sup>of</sup> ideals, improvement. The Jews who left Egypt and wandered  
through the wilderness for 40 years - what a miserable lot of people  
they were! How frequently they complained to Moses and plagued him.  
They didn't have enough food to eat. They didn't have water to drink.  
They wanted the flesh-pots of Egypt. They were a people that regretted  
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it hardship, a discouraged people, ~~a yet~~ a generation later, the  
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and building up a great people. That miracle of self-redemption has  
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Jeremiah at the time of the exile of the Jews in Babylon  
complained bitterly of the sinfulness of the people and of the backsliding  
and idolatrous practices and false prophets. Yet two generations later,  
the sons of these same people returned from the Babylonian exile to  
Judea, rebuilt their nation, purified their religion and gave to the  
world the most exalted Monotheistic faith that it has ever had.

The Jews of Spain had lived there for centuries and had  
become rich and prosperous. They were ~~rich and proud.~~ <sup>Opulent</sup> Yet when, in  
1492, expulsion came, and these same people were given three months  
to decide between being baptized or exiled, between leaving all their  
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should

friends, that this generation of Jews, ~~if~~ after a testing time will come to it as it has come to other sections of our people in other parts of the world - <sup>This</sup> ~~that~~ same generation which appears on the surface to be assimilated will rediscover within itself that same primal racial loyalty and strength.

What is the mystery of this people? What is the key to this strange survival of our people? And I would like to point to a few facts. In the first place, I ~~should like to point to the fact~~ <sup>in</sup> that just as there are individuals who possess/a greater measure, love for life, vitality, energy than other people, so there are masses of people who possess this life hunger, this will to live and this capacity for living in a greater measure than others. And the people of Israel have always had an amazing capacity for life and an indefeasible will to live.

"Choose thou life." That has been the mighty principle of Jewish survival. ~~And~~ When the Rabbis called us the toughest and hardest people of the earth, they knew what they were talking about and this will to live has always been strong enough to evolve strategy to protect them against the forces which threatened to destroy them. Those who love life never relax their vigilance against forces which might cause its disintegration.

In the second place, there is its life-giving faith, - a faith which <sup>does</sup> ~~did~~ not stultify and strangle religion but which has enabled it to make new adjustments - to advance. The Egyptians worshipped the God of the Netherlands. Their religion was the Book of



Dead. The God of Israel is a "king who desires life." Our faith was the sort of faith that made Jews seekers, men who go out in quest of the new, the undiscovered. "Get thee out from the rut, from the conventional. Go to the new land <sup>which</sup> I will show you and there you will become a blessing and all nations of the earth will become blessed through you."

Freedom, my friends, is dear to all people. With the Jewish people, freedom is a very part of their religion. When the ministers of old admonished the children of Israel and asked them to repent, they had to bring them a new religion, a new God. "Say unto the children of Israel: "I am Yaveh and I will bring you out from your burden and yoke of Egypt." - a faith that has helped to keep those who practiced that faith alive and vigorous through the ages.

And thirdly there is the Jew's capacity to adapt himself to his environment, to adopt the best in other cultures without destroying his own, without being submerged, without being completely assimilated. The Jew never ghettotized himself intellectually or spiritually. If he had, he would have vanished a long time ago. He adapted himself to all cultures. He took the best that was in all of them and incorporated them in his own. But he never permitted himself to be completely immersed and obliterated.

And I should like to point to another factor which has enabled the Jews to survive - that is loyalty to our own group. Jews have a strong sense of responsibility. Every Jew is responsible for another Jew. This sense of loyalty - that strong tie of brotherliness has never been broken.

Another factor is the survival of the Jewish home. A few



days ago some newspaper man called me up and said: "Rabbi, I know all about the history of the Passover Holiday. I know about the redemption. We know all about it. I would like to have you tell me something about that rare and admirable thing that we know exists today - the beauty and nobility of Jewish home life. That is something from which non-Jews can receive inspiration." This is a rare thing in the world, my friends, and I hope it is not becoming rare among our people.

The interesting thing, my friends, is that all these factors are still with us in 1936. We can still use them. They are still functioning as the bulwarks of survival and they are functioning and that is why I am not a pessimist today when there is so much happening to make men depressed and dejected. We shall outlive Hitler as we outlived Pharaoh. This story - the story of Pharaoh is exactly the same as the story of Hitler.

They know - the Hitlerites do - that they are doomed. Hence their cruelty and desperation. They know that what will ultimately triumph (?) is that spirit of Israel which they fear. <sup>Not</sup> There is the old classic spirit of Israel - freedom, truth seeking, love of justice. - that freedom which leads, that love justice. - And that love of justice which speaks from every page of the Bible, they must read in every church in Germany today. They can't help themselves. What they would like to do is to revise that Bible. They would like to forget that every page is written by Jews. They would like to obliterate every reference to freedom, tolerance and fair play and substitute for it war, hatred, intolerance and racial bigotry.



You can't forge a religion. You can be pickpockets, as the Nazis have been and take the wealth which the Jews have achieved through their labor in Germany and rob them of it. You can cheat. You can lie. You can break treaties. But you can't undo history. And every time the Bible is read on Easter morning in every church of Germany, the thought will sink into the minds of the listeners that the Book of the Bible is the book of the Jews whose descendants are today being degraded and humiliated and persecuted in their very midst, that the founder of the religion to whom they are worshiping this morning, is a Jew, was of the race of Israel, of a race which some people tell us to regard as an inferior race,--a race which teaches not of hatred nor war but of freedom and peace and justice and love of their neighbor.

And ultimately these things will undermine this regime of wickedness. Unto Abraham it was told and repeated unto Isaac who repeated it unto Jacob. "And I will bless those who bless you and those who curse you, I will curse." That is the law of Jewish history and one of the laws of Jewish survival. "Those who curse thee, I will curse; and those who bless thee, will be blessed."



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miracle  
of our lives  
Apr 12, 1936

The philosopher orator, Cicero, wrote to his son when he set out for Athens: "You are going to visit men who are supremely men." This fine designation, I make bold to say, may be applied in even greater justice to the people of Israel where a race, judging by every standard of measurement, is made up of men who are supremely men. They have been strong men possessed of amazing physical sturdiness, so much so that they have been able to survive 40 centuries and as a people have been able to outlive many greater and more numerous peoples. They have been wise men who have given the world spiritual and ethical ideals and fashioned three great religions of mankind. They have molded through their religious and ethical teachings the thought of the western world. They have been a loyal people, and if loyalty is a quality of men who are supremely men, then the household of Israel are entitled to be called "supremely men." In the face of persecution they remained loyal to their convictions. They chose martyrdom through the ages rather than surrender. They chose exile and wandering and suffering and humiliation rather than to prove disloyal. They have fought valiantly with weapons more difficult, because not physical, more effective - weapons of the mind and spirit - for their code of conduct, for their world vision. They manned the barricades of the world whenever there was a war in behalf of justice, freedom. And they are today, four thousand years later, after two thousand years of wandering and suffering, an amazingly alive, vital and vigorous creative pioneering people sixteen million strong. They are a race of men who are "supremely men."



We celebrate, this week, the festival of Passover, and connected with this festival, are certain legends about miracles which took place in Egypt. There was the great miracle of the parting of the Red Sea which left a dry road for the children of Israel to pass over to safety while their enemies pursued them and were destroyed. These miracles are legends. They have poetic significance - no historic significance and yet the greatest miracle of all is a true miracle, a real miracle, and that is the miracle of the people of Israel, itself. I wonder what passed through the minds of Pharaoh and his hosts as they pursued the children of Israel who were fleeing from Egypt. What thoughts passed through their minds as their chariots rolled on and their swords and spurs flashed as they pursued the slaves.

The beautiful song of Miriam in the Book of Exodus, tries to portray the ideas which flashed through the minds of the enemy. The enemy said: "I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the booty. My desire shall be satisfied upon them. I will lay bare my sword and my sword will destroy them." This was Pharaoh four thousand years ago and this is Hitler four thousand years later.

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How often, my friends, as you read the Jewish history, do you come across the phrase "strengthened by the enemies of Israel" - a phrase which you find in the Book of Lamentations. "We have them up." How often do you come across, as you read the story of the historic Bible "Hep, hep, Jerusalem is destroyed!" How often do you come across the cry echoed in Germany "The Jew shall perish like a beast." What weapons were not forged and used against this people? From the laws of Pharaoh in Egypt which destroyed every male Jewish child to the Nuremberg laws of 1935. And yet here we are - living, achieving, creating, fighting our foes as valiantly as in the past - 16 million strong.

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We are a people sharply critical of ourselves of our weaknesses. Think how often the prophets of Israel despaired of the people of Israel and called it a sinful and backsliding people! And yet the miracle has happened - the miracle of self-redemption - a miracle of repentance and refashioning ideals, improvement. The Jews who left Egypt and wandered through the wilderness for 40 years - what a miserable lot of people they were! How frequently they complained to Moses and plagued him. They didn't have enough food to eat. They didn't have water to drink. They wanted the flesh-pots of Egypt. They were a people that regretted that it had left Egypt because the freedom of the desert brought with it hardship, a discouraged people, a yet a generation later, the descendants of these same people fought and died like heroes, conquering and building up a great people. That miracle of self-redemption has happened over and over again.

Jeremiah at the time of the exile of the Jews in Babylon complained bitterly of the sinfulness of the people and of the backsliding and idolatrous practices and false prophets. Yet two generations later, the sons of these same people returned from the Babylonian exile to Judea, rebuilt their nation, purified their religion and gave to the world the most exalted Monotheistic faith that it has ever had.

The Jews of Spain had lived there for centuries and had become rich and prosperous. They were rich and proud. Yet when, in 1492, expulsion came, and these same people were given three months to decide between being baptized or exiled, between leaving all their possessions in Spain, their palaces and comforts or going out into the world as paupers facing danger, torture, exile - these same people chose exile. A miracle of self-redemption - and I say unto you, my



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THE MYSTERY OF OUR SURVIVAL

Sermon, The Temple,  
Passover, April 11,  
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I wonder what passed through the minds of Pharaoh and his hosts as they pursued the children of Israel who were fleeing from Egypt; I wonder what thoughts passed through their minds as their chariots rolled on and their swords and spurs flashed, ~~as they pursued the slaves.~~

The beautiful song of Miriam in the Book of Exodus tries to portray the ideas which flashed through the minds of the enemy. The enemy said: "I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the booty. My desire shall be satisfied upon them. I will lay bare my sword and my sword will destroy them." This was Pharaoh four thousand years ago and this is Hitler <sup>today.</sup> ~~four thousand years later.~~

Where are they now, these men for whom our ancestors built the citadels of Pithom and Ramses, these mighty swordsmen and charioteers who pursued the people of Israel? The sands of time have completely covered them up. Nothing remains of them. What remains of other enemies of Israel, whose who laid waste to the kingdoms of Israel and Judea, <sup>the</sup> proud Assyria and mighty Babylon? They are of interest only to students of archaeology.

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How often as you read Jewish history do you come across the phrase, "We have swallowed her up this day." How often do you come across the cry echoed in Germany, "The Jew shall perish like a beast." What weapons were not forged and used against this people, from the laws of Pharaoh in Egypt which destroyed every male Jewish child to the Nuremberg laws which threaten every Jewish life? And yet here we are, living, achieving, creating, fighting our foes as valiantly as in the past - sixteen million strong.

If you ask for any miracle in history, here is the supreme miracle. The



Christian world is celebrating this day the miracle of the resurrection of its Master, who was crucified and descended into the tomb but ~~who~~ rose again. I submit in all humility this greater miracle - an arisen people, an often crucified people, <sup>which</sup> ~~who~~ more than once was nailed to a cross; a people which descended into the valley of the shadow of death time and time again, and arose, again resurrected.

We are a people sharply critical of ourselves. Think how often the prophets of Israel despaired of Israel and called it a sinful and backsliding people! Yet the miracle has happened - the miracle of self-redemption, a miracle of repentance and refashioned ideals. The Jews who left Egypt and wandered through the wilderness for forty years - what a miserable lot they were! How frequently they complained to Moses and plagued him. They did not have enough food to eat. They did not have water to drink. They wanted the flesh-pots of Egypt. They were a people that regretted that it had left Egypt, because the freedom of the desert brought with it hardship. They were a discouraged people. Yet a generation later, the descendants of these same people fought and died like heroes, conquering and building up the land. That miracle of self-redemption has happened over and over again.

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What is the key to this strange survival of our people? I would like to



point to a few facts. In the first place, just as there are individuals who possess in a greater measure love for life, vitality, energy than other people, so there are <sup>groups</sup> masses of people who possess this life hunger, this will to live, and this capacity for living in a larger measure than other peoples. The people of Israel have always had an amazing capacity for life and an indefeasible will to live. "Choose thou life". That has been the mighty principle of Jewish survival. When the Rabbis called us the toughest and the hardest people of the earth, they knew what they were talking about, and this will to live has always been strong enough to evolve strategy to protect Jews against the forces which threatened to destroy them. Those who love life never relax their vigilance against forces which might cause <sup>their</sup> ~~its~~ disintegration.

In the second place, there is <sup>the</sup> ~~its~~ life-giving faith, <sup>of our people,</sup> a faith which does not stultify and strangle religion but which has enabled it to make new adjustments, to advance. The Egyptians worshipped the god of the netherworld. Their scripture was the Book of the Dead. The God of Israel is a "king who desires life." Our faith was the sort of faith that made Jews seekers, men who go out in quest of the new, the undiscovered. Get thee out from the rut, from the conventional. Go to the new land which I will show you, and there you will become a blessing and all nations of the earth will become blessed through you.

Third, there is the Jew's capacity to adapt himself to his environment, to adopt the best in other cultures without destroying his own, without becoming sub-merged, without being completely assimilated. The Jew never ghettoized himself intellectually or spiritually. If he had, he would have vanished a long time ago. He took the best <sup>from other</sup> ~~that was in all~~ cultures and incorporated <sup>it</sup> ~~them~~ in his own. He never permitted himself to be completely immersed and erased.

I should like to point to another factor which has enabled the Jews to survive - <sup>M</sup> ~~that is~~ loyalty to our own group. Jews have a strong sense of responsibility. Every Jew is responsible for <sup>every other</sup> ~~another~~ Jew. This strong tie of brotherliness has never been broken.

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Sermon 454

Excellent

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THE MIRACLE OF OUR LIVES  
From Egypt to Berlin - The Mystery of Our Survival

Delivered By  
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

At  
The Temple

On  
Sunday Morning, April 12, 1936



The philosopher orator, Cicero, wrote to his son when he set out for Athens: "You are going to visit men who are supremely men." This fine designation, I make bold to say, may be applied in even greater justice to the people of Israel where a race, judging by every standard of measurement, is made up of men who are supremely men. They have been strong men possessed of amazing physical sturdiness, so much so that they have been able to survive 40 centuries and as a people have been able to outlive many greater and more numerous peoples. They have been wise men who have given the world spiritual and ethical ideals and fashioned three great religions of mankind. They have molded through their religious and ethical teachings the thought of the western world. They have been a loyal people, and if loyalty is a quality of men who are supremely men, then the household of Israel are entitled to be called "supremely men." In the face of persecution they remained loyal to their convictions. They chose martyrdom through the ages rather than surrender. They chose exile and wandering and suffering and humiliation rather than to prove disloyal. They have fought valiantly with weapons more difficult, because not physical, more effective - weapons of the mind and spirit - for their code of conduct, for their world vision. They manned the barricades of the world whenever there was a war in behalf of justice, freedom. And they are today, four thousand years later, after two thousand years of wandering and suffering, an amazingly alive, vital and vigorous creative pioneering people sixteen million strong. They are a race of men who are "supremely men."



## *The Mystery of Our Survival*

*A Passover Sermon, April, 1936*

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We celebrate, this week, the festival of Passover, and connected with this festival, are certain legends about miracles which took place in Egypt. There was the great miracle of the parting of the Red Sea which left a dry road for the children of Israel to pass over to safety while their enemies pursued them and were destroyed. These miracles are legends. They have poetic significance - no historic significance and yet the greatest miracle of all is a true miracle, a real miracle, and that is the miracle of the people of Israel, itself.

*Begin* → I wonder what passed through the minds of Pharaoh and his hosts as they pursued the children of Israel who were fleeing from Egypt. What thoughts passed through their minds as their chariots rolled on and their swords and spurs flashed as they pursued the slaves.

The beautiful song of Miriam in the Book of Exodus, tries to portray the ideas which flashed through the minds of the enemy. The enemy said: "I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the booty. My desire shall be satisfied upon them. I will lay bare my sword and my sword will destroy them." This was Pharaoh four thousand years ago and this is Hitler four thousand years later.

Where are they now - these men for whom our ancestors built the citadels of Pithom and Rameses - these mighty swordsmen and charioteers who pursued the people of Israel? The sands of ~~the~~ time have completely covered them up. Nothing remains of them. What remains of other enemies of Israel - those who laid waste to the Kingdoms of Israel and Judea, the proud Assyria, the mighty Babylon? Through the ages all of them are fairly obliterated. They are of interest only to students of <sup>ch</sup>Aræology.



The miracle of this little people that never conquered the world and never subjugated the world, never erected pyramids or empires - this small people continued an unbroken chain of historic continuity, outlived all great empires and is now, twenty centuries later, even more numerous and energetic, more hungry for life than in the past.

How often, my friends, as you read the Jewish history, do you come across the phrase "strengthened by the enemies of Israel" - a phrase which you find in the Book of Lamentations. "We have them up." How often do you come across, as you read the story of the historic Bible "Hep, hep, Jerusalem is destroyed!" How often do you come across the cry echoed in Germany "The Jew shall perish like a beast." What weapons were not forged and used against this people? From the laws of Pharaoh in Egypt which destroyed every male Jewish child to the Nuremberg laws of 1935. And yet here we are - living, achieving, creating, fighting our foes as valiantly as in the past - 16 million strong.

If you ask for any miracle in history, here is the supreme miracle. A great Christian world is celebrating today the miracle of the resurrection of its Master who was crucified and descended into the tomb but who rose again. I submit in all humility, my friends, this greater miracle - an arisen people, ~~an~~ an even more crucified people who more than once through its long tragic history was nailed to a cross and cried "Eli, Eli" - a people which descended into the valley of the shadow of death time and again and arose again resurrected.



We are a people sharply critical of ourselves, ~~of our weaknesses.~~  
Think how often the prophets of Israel despaired of ~~the people of Israel~~  
and called it a sinful and backsliding people! ~~And~~ yet the miracle has  
happened - the miracle of self-redemption - a miracle of repentance  
and refashioning <sup>of</sup> ideals, ~~improvement.~~ The Jews who left Egypt and wandered  
through the wilderness for 40 years - what a miserable lot of people  
they were! How frequently they complained to Moses and plagued him.  
They didn't have enough food to eat. They didn't have water to drink.  
They wanted the flesh-pots of Egypt. They were a people that regretted  
that it had left Egypt because the freedom of the desert brought with  
it hardship, a discouraged people, a yet a generation later, the  
descendants of these same people fought and died like heroes, conquering  
and building up a great people. That miracle of self-redemption has  
happened over and over again.

Jeremiah at the time of the exile of the Jews in Babylon  
complained bitterly of the sinfulness of the people and of the backsliding  
and idolatrous practices and false prophets. Yet two generations later,  
the sons of these same people returned from the Babylonian exile to  
Judea, rebuilt their nation, purified their religion and gave to the  
world the most exalted Monotheistic faith that it has ever had.

The Jews of Spain had lived there for centuries and had  
become rich and prosperous. They were ~~rich and proud.~~ <sup>disputations came</sup> Yet when, in  
1492, expulsion came, and these same people were given three months  
to decide between being baptized or exiled, between leaving all their  
possessions in Spain, their palaces and comforts or going out into  
the world as paupers facing danger, torture, exile - these same people  
chose exile. A miracle of self-redemption - and I say ~~unto you, my~~



~~friends~~, that this generation of Jews, <sup>should</sup> ~~if~~ after a testing time will come to it as it has come to other sections of our people in other parts of the world - <sup>This</sup> ~~that~~ same generation which appears on the surface to be assimilated will rediscover within itself that same primal racial loyalty and strength.

What is the mystery of this people? What is the key to this strange survival of our people? And I would like to point to a few facts. ~~In the first place, I should like to point to the fact~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~that~~ just as there are individuals who possess/a greater measure, love for life, vitality, energy than other people, so there are masses of people who possess this life hunger, this will to live and this capacity for living in a greater measure than others. And the people of Israel have always had an amazing capacity for life and an indefeasible will to live.

"Choose thou life." That has been the mighty principle of Jewish survival. ~~And~~ when the Rabbis called us the toughest and hardest people of the earth, they knew what they were talking about and this will to live has always been strong enough to evolve strategy to protect them against the forces which threatened to destroy them. Those who love life never relax their vigilance against forces which might cause its disintegration.

In the second place, there is its life-giving faith, - a faith which did not stultify and strangle religion but which has enabled it to make new adjustments - to advance. The Egyptians worshipped the God of the Netherlands. Their religion was the Book of



Dead. The God of Israel is a "king who desires life." Our faith was the sort of faith that made Jews seekers, men who go out in quest of the new, the undiscovered. "Get thee out from the rut, from the conventional. Go to the new land <sup>which</sup> where I will show you and there you will become a blessing and all nations of the earth will become blessed through you."

Freedom, ~~my friends~~, is dear to all people. With the Jewish people, freedom is a very part of their religion. When the ministers of old admonished the children of Israel and asked them to repent, they had to bring them a new religion, a new God. "Say unto the children of Israel: "I am Yaveh and I will bring you out from your burden and yoke of Egypt." - a faith that has helped to keep those who practiced that faith alive and vigorous through the ages.

And thirdly there is the Jew's capacity to adapt himself to his environment, to adopt the best in other cultures without destroying his own, without being submerged, without being completely assimilated. The Jew never ghettotized himself intellectually or spiritually. If he had, he would have vanished a long time ago. ~~He adapted himself to all cultures.~~ He took the best that was in <sup>cultures</sup> all of them and incorporated them in his own. But he never permitted himself to be completely immersed and obliterated.

And I should like to point to another factor which has enabled the Jews to survive - that is loyalty to our own group. Jews have a strong sense of responsibility. Every Jew is responsible for another Jew. This sense of loyalty - that strong tie of brotherliness has never been broken.

Another factor is the survival of the Jewish home. A few



days ago some newspaper man called me up and said: "Rabbi, I know all about the history of the Passover Holiday. I know about the redemption. We know all about it. I would like to have you tell me something about that rare and admirable thing that we know exists today - the beauty and nobility of Jewish home life. That is something from which non-Jews can receive inspiration." This is a rare thing in the world, my friends, and I hope it is not becoming rare among our people.

The interesting thing, my friends, is that all these factors are still with us in 1936. We can still use them. They are still functioning as the bulwarks of survival and they are ~~functioning~~ and that is why I am not a pessimist today when there is so much happening to make men depressed and dejected. We shall outlive Hitler as we outlived Pharaoh. This story - the story of Pharaoh is exactly the same as the story of Hitler.

They know - the Hitlerites do - that they are doomed. Hence their cruelty and desperation. They know that what will ultimately conquer is that spirit of Israel which ~~they~~ they fear. ~~There is the old classic spirit of Israel - freedom, truth seeking, love of justice. - that freedom which leads, that love justice. - And that love of justice~~ which speaks from every page of the Bible, they must read in every church in Germany today. They can't help themselves. What they would like to do is to revise that Bible. They would like to forget that every page is written by Jews. They would like to obliterate every reference to freedom, tolerance and fair play and substitute for it war, hatred, intolerance and racial bigotry.

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You can't forge a religion. You can be pickpockets, as the Nazis have been and take the wealth which the Jews have achieved through their labor in Germany and rob them of it. You can cheat. You can lie. You can break treaties. But you can't undo history. And every time the Bible is read on Easter morning in every church of Germany, the thought will sink into the minds of the listeners that the Book of the Bible is the book of the Jews whose descendants are today being degraded and humiliated and persecuted in their very midst, that the founder of the religion to whom they are worshipping this morning, is a Jew, was of the race of Israel, of a race which some people tell us to regard as an inferior race, -a race which teaches not of hatred nor war but of freedom and peace and justice and love of their neighbor.

~~And~~ ultimately these things will undermine this regime of wickedness. Unto Abraham it was told and repeated unto Isaac who repeated it unto Jacob. "And I will bless those who bless you and those who curse you, I will curse." That is the law of Jewish history and one of the laws of Jewish survival. "Those who curse thee, I will curse; and those who bless thee, will be blessed."