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Kindling new the holy lamps, 1943.

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KINDLING NEW THE HOLY LAMPS
A Chanukah Sermon



At
The Temple

On
Sunday morning, December 26, 1943

In the days of the Maccabees men were fighting. Today men are fighting. In the days of the Maccabees men were fighting on the hills in caves, as soldiers, as guerrillas. Today, in the hills, in the jungles, in the foxholes are soldiers and guerrillas. Strangely enough the battle-cries are the same. The enemy is the same.

The war today is a global war. The war then, 2100 years ago was confined to a much smaller field of operation - to the Hills of Judea. But the issues fought over were identical and the fate of mankind hung in the balance then as it hangs in the balance now. Of the Maccabees of old can be said as truly as was said concerning the Royal Air Force: "Never did so many owe so much to so few. Because, had the Maccabees failed, had they been defeated, Judaism would have perished. All that stemmed out of Judaism -- the whole religious culture of the Western World would have perished."

The weapons employed then differed from those employed today. Then there were no guns, planes, tanks, only swords and spears, and on the side of the enemies the deadly living tanks of antiquity, armoured elephants, and death-dealing chariots and charioteers. But the same fierce resolution was there, the same indomitable courage, the same heroic disregard of life and of safety, the spirit of Salerno and Bataan and Tarawa was there.

What were the men of those days fighting for? What are we fighting for today? Were the Maccabees fighting for new territories, new boundaries? Not at all. The Jews were never militaristic. Left alone, the Jews would have been quite content to remain within the borders of their own country. They never had imperial ambitions. Because of the strategic position of Palestine the Jews had to defend themselves. It was at the cross-road of the ancient world. The Jews were frequently attacked by Syria, Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, Greece who found this little country in the way of their imperial ambitions and then attempted to engulf it. Very often the very little country of Judea

found itself enmeshed in in intrigue of its formidable neighbors. But the Jews on their own never wanted to conquer anyone in the world, and they knew how to defend themselves. ✓ And within the boundaries of that little country developed a way of life of its own which differed very radically from that of the rest of the world. Their religion was different. Their moral code was different. The rest of the world, the entire ancient world from the Palace of Hercules to the Gates of India was pagan, heathen, idolatrous. Only little Judea was a small island in this sea of paganism. Only the Jews of the second century before the Common Era, resisted polytheism. They rejected the whole pagan mythology of the countries of the ancient world.

The Jews knew themselves to be possessed of faith, vital living none of the other people had. They alone among all the peoples of antiquity refused to worship the state in the symbol of the Emperor or King. They would not tolerate the bust of the Emperor in their Temple because they recognized that above all earthly kings and rulers who was alone worthy of adoration was God, that above the country authority there was something higher - that was the authority and moral law of God. In the name of that moral law of God ~~itself~~ frequently the state itself could be challenged. In that little country of Judea they had developed a way of life of their own and a religion of their own and also a standard of morality which was different, infinitely moral superior to the/standards all around.

The moral standards of the ancient pagan world were ~~even~~ pitifully low., brutal slavery, cruelty, arenas where men and beasts fight for the delight of mobs, who were insensate to human suffering, and could not conceive of the dignity and sanctity of human life. There was gross moral laxity in their sensual lives. It was a world in which all things belonged to the strong, the ruthless, the rapacious. Nothing was done to mitigate the lot of the weak and the small.

pity, compassion, charity - they were scorned. The Jews and the Jews alone in that pagan world had been disciplined by centuries of Torah, by a code of moral principles which declared that life must be governed by justice and love and charity and brotherhood. Thou shalt love thy neighbor. Thou shalt not oppress him. Thou shalt champion the dispossessed, because your God is a God of mercy, pity. Men who wish to worship God must seek to emulate His ways. There was this island of true religion, of high morality in the midst of this sea of heathendom. The heathens were determined to submerge it. Chanukah tells that in the second century this Jewish way of life was threatened with extinction. The great Assyrian world was resolved to destroy that way of life and replace it with their own, just as the Nazis would like to do today.

The attack which Antiochus and his empire launched upon Judea was therefore not merely a political attack. It was a spiritual attack on that whole complex of ethical principles which in our day, too, are being attacked. Antiochus, like Hitler, sought to uproot ideas which he found contrary and dangerous to his way of life. So he prohibited the practise of the teaching of Judaism and the observance of those Jewish customs and laws which he knew were responsible for the survival of this stiff-necked differing people of Judea ~~xxx~~ and like Goebbels of our day, he knew and his henchmen knew how to slander this little people. In the story of Chanukah we come across this very challenging and startling statement. Among the things which the propagandists and gestapo of Antiochus said about the Jews was this - that the Jews were eagerly awaiting the day of collapse of all the dominions and of all nations when their own king would rule over them, so that "we might rule over all the people and over all the lands, so that the whole world will be in our power." Reminiscent, isn't it of the Elders of Zion. That little country, that little whole island which resisted them, the/pagan world, Antiochus was afraid that that people wanted to destroy the kingdoms of the earth, all of them, and to be in control of the whole world.

Antiochus invaded and defiled their Temple. He desecrated its high altars and set up images of pagan gods in the sanctuaries of The Temple. He forced the Jews by torture, by threat of death, to take on his way of life, to accept his way of life, the new order. Antiochus had seemingly triumphed. But men who believe in the kind of God in which those men believed in and who were raised on the kind of teachings which the Bible taught, could not be easily threatened or subjugated. The Jews of those days loved their way of life. They would rather die than leave. The Wehrmacht of Antiochus, with elephants and charioteers also seemed invincible in those days, and they were not impressed, these hard driven Jews of Judea, with order of Antiochus. They knew it to be written to the core. So the banner of revolt was soon raised in Judea. The little family, father and sons, and a handful of followers raised high their banner of revolt. They knew that they were few and weak, and lacked arms. But they also knew that with God it is all one to help, the strength of the weak, the power of the few. The critical importance of the non-conformist minority its immortal truths so superbly aroused is pointed out in this story of Chanukah.

The miracle, according to the prayer recited on Chanukah was this: "that you ~~xxxx~~ could surrender the many into the hands of the few and the strong into the hands of the weak"; the small thing that becomes great because of inherent strength. The one little cruse of undefiled oil was able, because it was holy oil, to show the miracle of burning not one day, but eight. The glory, the incorruptibility, the magnification of that which is small and weak when inspired with inherent power, full of dynamic ideals -- that is the message of Chanukah. The little lights which prove to be the torches which illumine the world.

Mattathias and his sons and their few followers might have permitted themselves to be swept along by the majority. Everyone was yielding, was accepting the King's authority and order. The whole world was pagan. Why hold out? It

is hopeless, impractical. Let's have a little appeasement. Let's comply with paganism. And there were Jews in those days who turned out to be eager collaborationists with the Hellenists. Fortunately was not Munich. That little handful of leaders realized that the fate of the whole world rested on their shoulders. They refused to comply. Mattathias spake with a loude voice: "Thou all the nations that are under the king's dominion obey him and fall away every one from the religion of their fathers, and give consent to his commandment, yet will I, and my sons, and my brethern walk in the covenant of our fathers...We will not hearken to the king's words to go from our religion, either on the right hand or the left."

So this handful of people began to fight among the hills, gallantly they fought. They drove their enemies from their land. They attacked time and again, at first with small detachments, then with increasingly larger armies. They attacked time and again and finally defeated them in one of the great battles of the world, drove them out of the country.

Victoriously Judah and his followers returned to the Temple, cleansed the Temple, rededicated the altars and the Temple. And so the day was saved, not only for Judaism, but for all that stemmed out of Judaism - Christianity and Islam, and the whole ethical culture of the rest of the world. That is how men fought then. That is how men are fighting today.

Even so the Maccabees of our day are fighting their way to victory. Holy lamps which were extinguished will be kindled again. The lights are going on again all over the world. All men are fighting today for a new way of life, not for new conquests, but for the preservation of our way of life, against neo-paganism steeped in cruelty and brutality and lust of conquest, a paganism that makes ~~war~~ war on ideas, and the rights of men to think and believe as they wish, in a real sense far more cruel, sadistically cruel than that of the ancients. They can take two, three million men and women and children, civilians, innocent civilians and put them before a firing squad... This contempt for life, for the dignity

of human beings, this neo-paganism is infinitely more horrible than it was in ancient life....This is our enemy, the same enemy of Israel in ancient days.

When you look at this little Chanukah light, you are gazing not at an ancient symbol of a distant conflict in a far-removed little land. You are looking at the bravest and noblest symbol of the eternal conflict of the free spirit of man, everywhere and in all ages, against tyranny, cruelty and wrong, against hate and war and aggression. This is the symbol of the fine spirit of man throughout all ages, refusing to submit to darkness and terror at the threat of death. This is the symbol of the light that never failed in the world. That is why Chanukah, 1943 is such a meaningful, such an inspiring festival, a spirit of the undying spirit of Israel. It is the festival of the undying spirit of mankind.



1). In days of Mace. men were fighting. To-day men are fighting.

In days of Mace. men were fighting in the hills, ~~amongst~~ ^{amongst} as soldiers or guerrillas. To-day - in the hills, in the forests, in forests ~~as~~ soldiers and guerrillas.

And strangely enough the battle-cries are the same; and the enemy is the same.

= The war to-day is a global war. The war then - 2100 years ago - was confined to a ~~small~~ ^{much smaller} theatre of operations - to Arch India.

= But the issues fought over were the same. And the fate of mankind hangs in the balance there as now. ~~And the fate of~~
= The of the Mace. (R.A.F.) "never ~~was~~ ^{did} so many ~~men~~ ^{over} ~~as~~ ^{under} 20 years. Had Mace. lost - Judaea perished.

= Weapons employed differed. No guns, tanks or planes: only swords and spears - and on the sides of the survivors the dead living tanks, antipersonnel ~~divisions~~ ^{armoured} elephants - and death-dealing chariots and charioteers. But the same fierce resolution was there - same indomitable courage - same heroic disregard of life and safety - the Davidic Spirit matched the Taracua spirit - the spirit of Sabine and Batman.

= What were the men, those days, fighting for? What are we fighting for to-day?

- New territory? New boundaries? New conquests? Not at all!

- The Jews were never imperialists. When left alone they were quite content to remain within the borders, their little country.

= They never entertained imperial ambitions. But, their strategic position - at cross-roads, ancient used - they were frequently attacked and they had to defend so. Syria, Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, Greece ~~conquered~~ ^{conquered} this road in the path of their imperial advances, and engulfed it. And Israel found herself, from time to time, in the ~~throes~~ ^{throes} of ~~the~~ ^{the} imperial intestine, that is that permanent weakness.

- But the Jews, on their own, were wanted to conquer the world, altho they knew how to defend their own to the death.
- = Both in their little land they developed a way of life which differed very radically from that, the rest of the world. Their religion was different. Their moral code was different. Rest of world was Pagan - idolatrous. The Jews of 2nd C. were - & their ancestors, for centuries, had been monotheists - the only monotheist in the whole world - and the bitterest foes of paganism. They scorned and denounced the polytheism of the whole ancient world - and rejected the mythology of the Pagan gods - concerning which even the early Church Fathers alone among people of antiquity - refused to worship the state in the symbol of the Emperor as King. They would not tolerate the bust of the Emperor in their Temple. Alas earthly King or potentate - there was one higher - who alone is worthy of adoration - God - and above the State there was something higher - the authority of Gods moral law - in whose name one may sometimes defy the authority of the State!
 - = The moral standards, the ancient pagans could never pitifully low. Brutal slavery, cruelty, arenas where men and beasts fought for the delight of mobs who were vicarious to the human suffering, and could not conceive of the dignity & sanctity of human life. Gross moral laxity in their sexual life - a world in which all things belonged to the strong - the ruthless - the rapacious. No thing to unite great lot of weak & small. No pity. No compassion; no mandator, charity.
 - = The Jews had been for centuries disciplined by a DDA - which ordained justice and love - and charity and brotherhood. וְיָדוּ אִתְּךָ אֶת-הָעֲלֵף וְהָבְיָא לְךָ חֵן וְחַדְשָׁה. וְיָדוּ אִתְּךָ אֶת-הָעֲלֵף וְהָבְיָא לְךָ חֵן וְחַדְשָׁה.

Moral chastity and chamber, living.

2) The Syrian-people in SC. - threatened that way I hate. Resolved to
destroy - and like Nazis - replace it with their own. Fearful
and resented this little island of religion & morality in
their sea of heathendom. Determined to salvage it -
Best world was pagan - why did this ~~little~~ ^{little} stuff -
wicked people insist upon being different - resist the
world order.

could order.
The attack on Tudea, was not merely a pol. attack. It was a spiritual attack on that ~~same~~ whole complex of ethics - rel. ideas which we know as Judaism & Chr. - Americanism, like Hitler, sought to uproot ideas - sub-
stitute principles in the world - ideas so which he knew to be dangerous to his power and to the survival of his kind of a world-order. He prohibited the teaching of Jew. Observance of their J. laws & customs which kept Jew. alive and perpetuated it.

alone and perpetuated it.
He standardized him - 2100 yrs ago - as Hefter did.
 וְהָיָה כִּי יִשְׁמַע בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה
 וְיִזְכְּרוּ אֶת הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה לְעוֹלָם וָעוֹלָם
 פֶּאֶרְחָא? אֵלֶּיךָ? אֵלֶּיךָ? אֵלֶּיךָ?
Faustian? Elder of Zion? Nothing original in Gorbels
lies!

He invaded & defiled their Temple. Offered swine upon altars. Set up images, ~~for~~ ^{pagan} deities. Tried Jews by torture & threat, death to worship them.

The New Order had triumphed!

3). But men who believed in the Lord, the Jew believers
and had been reared in the kind of teaching - do not sub.

not to torture & threats, death. They loved their honour too dearly. They would rather die than lose it. They hated and despised the pagan might even if it appeared invincible and decked out in all splendour and glamour. They knew it to be rotten at the core - a human debilitation and corruption.

And ~~even~~ the banner, Revel, was ~~being~~ raised on high! A family of 5 noble fathers & 5 sons, with a handful of followers raised the Revel! They knew that they were few - and weak - and lacked arms - But they also knew that with God it is all one to help - ^(the ~~most~~ critical importance of agreement which refers to God's power to give them strength)

The strength, the weak! The few, the few. ^{point this lesson: A little} unverably ^{understand} ^{they are} cross ^{for} - A handful, men defying Europe.

Matthews this was other few followers might have per-
me had us to be swept along by the majority. One are
was yielding. was accepting the King's authority order.
The whole world was pagan. Why hold out? It's his.
less. It's in front of us. Let's have affirmation. Let's
comprised with paganism. But (Moses) are not known

"Then Math. ~~spoke~~ arose and spoke with a loud voice! Though
all the nations that are under the King's dominion they hear and
fall away every one from the religion, their fathers, and give consent
to his commandments. Yet will I, and my sons and my
brethren walk in the covenant of our fathers... We will not
hearken to the King's words to go from our religion, either on the
right hand or the left"

4) Fight then to victory. Turn & turn - draw them from land
Redeemed. Lamps of the spirit ~~which~~ - the holy lamp of
faith, of truth, of justice, of love, now kindled anew! The
day was saved for civilization and mankind.

5) Even ~~so~~ ^{more} ~~more~~ of an day are fighting their way through to
victory. ~~They~~ Lamps which were extinguished will be kindled
anew. Lights will go on again all over the world.
- As of old, men are fighting to-day for a way of life - against
a neo-paganism steeped in cruelty and brutality and
lust of conquest - a paganism that makes war an idea,
and the rights of men to thrive and believe as they wish -
- crueller by far - than the ancients - 2 M. slaves -
- contempt for life, dignity of man, worshipping the State
and its embodiment in a man - a mad man!

6) This is our Enemy! - Israel's enemy in ancient
times. Israel's and mankind's enemy to-day. He is being
forgotten. He is being crushed!

When you look at this ~~sign~~ ^{sign} ~~memorial~~ - you are
gazing not at an ancient symbol of a distant, ~~for~~
~~remote~~ conflict in a far-removed little land.

- You are gazing at the hardest most symbol
the eternal conflict of the free spirit / man, everywhere
and in all ages, against tyranny, cruelty, and
wrong - against ~~chaos~~ ^{darkness} and hate and war.
You are gazing at the light that never failed!