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How to build a home, 1957.

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON March 10, 1957 The Temple

HOW TO BUILD A HOME

by

DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

The building of a home was never regarded by our people as a simple or easy matter. It takes a great architect -- great architectural skill -- to build an attractive physical house - building - structure. It takes even greater architectural skill of a different of course, to build an attractive and enduring home. In our book of "Proverbs" from which I read this morning, it is a considerable number of reflections and wise sayings about the home.

"By wisdom is a home built, and by understanding is it established. By knowledge are its rooms filled with all manner of precious and pleasant things".

Evidently it takes wisdom and understanding and knowledge to build a home and to fill its rooms with precious and pleasant things.

The building of a home is an exquisite art. Now some men and women are by nature gifted and artistic home builders. Other men and women acquire that art through years of experience — through the customary channels of trial and error and they too, come at long last, to complete a fine home. Others again never learn the technique of home building and so to quote Jobe, of the Bible,

"he leans against his house, but it does not stand -- he lays hold of it, but it does not endure".

Or, changing the gender, and again quoting from the Book of Proverbs -- from that Chapter which I read this morning --

"The wise woman knows how to build her home, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands".

Home building requires skill - knowledge - wisdom. Now why are homes altogether necessary for man? I do not mean physical houses of course. A man needs shelter and whether it be cave or palace or basement or pent house, a man needs a roof over

his head. But why does man need a home? Now there were societies and social systems and philosophies in ancient times - and there are in modern times - who do not believe that men and women and children need individual homes - who advocate and practice community living - dormitory existence for adults - and State Institutions for the care and the rearing of children. Plato, in ancient times advocated just such a system, and Russian Communism, is theoretically at least - and in some areas practically committed to it to this day..

Why does a man need a home? The value of a home is that men and women and children need a little private world of their own, where they themselves, and no others are the principals - the primary centers of interest and the source of attention and authority.

The home is the little world in which every man, woman or child, can find an important status — a value which the great world outside frequently fails to give them. "In his home", says a Hebrew Proverb, which is quoted in the Talmud, "In his home, even a humble weaveris a King".

A home and a family are small enough to give the individual in it a sense of indespensibility and therefore of spiritual security, which are so vital to the development of the personality of every human being. If a man does not feel important - he is defeated from the start.

In other words, importance of a home is that it is for the personality of man a stronghold - a shelter - a from which he can move the world, and if what I say is true, then the home is even more indispensible in our age than it was ever in the past. In our age of growing collectivism - in this mass age, where the individual is coming to count for less and less - where the individual's independence of action even in a democratic society, is so often restricted and constricted, deliberately or unconsciously, by the power of giant industrial organizations in which he is a small and effect insignificant cog -- by vast labor organizations and by the social demands of conformity on all sides. This machine age has the tendency of making the individual a number rather than a person. And it is literally true that the home remains for man

his last refuge of independence and dignity. In the olden days they spoke of a man's home as his castle, implying that his home gave man a certain legal immunity — a certain legal inviolability. But today the home, in very truth, is the fortress and the stronghold of man's spiritual immunity. A man's ego in the finest sense of the word— in the self. That is why men need homes.

And the home too, is the primary center for the cultivation of moral habits and the molding of character, not merely for children, for adults as well — adults are educated and must continue to be educated until the day of their death. It is easier of course to learn when one is young, but the process of learning, of self-development, of improvement of self, must continue until the very end of our days. And it is the home where this cultivation of moral habit and the molding of character must take place primarily. It is there that man should receive the basic training, in responsible citizenship, in the democratic way of life, in the obligations of a free cooperative society, in which men make secure their rights by fulfilling their obligations.

My good friends, social intelligence, the art of getting along with other people, is one of the principal charactistics of a mature person. A lot of people are bright - a lot of people are quick to learn - a lot of people are very smart - but unless they have a developed social intelligence - unless they have learned how to get along with people in an organized society in which every human being lives -- they are not mature people. We are never quite wholesome or complete human beings until we have learned the essentials of human relationships.

And it is in the home - in that closely knit, intimate, social unit -- in its constant interplay and occasional conflicts of personalities, of ambitions, of interests, of loyalties -- its delicate balancing of rights and duties -- it is in the home that we get our ultimate pattern of social behavior. Children leave their homes, either equipped for life, or crippled for life.

The answer to the question, therefore, How to Build a Home? derives from the very functions which the home is to perform for the men and women who set out to build one. These young men and women must bring to the task of home building,

in the first place, a frank acknowledgment and realizations that they have much to learn about home building. And they must possess a humility, prerequisite for learning. And finally a full realization that the success of home building depends, in the last analysis, upon themselves.

Society can do much, of course, to protect the home. In the first place society can train young people for the career of husband and wife, and father and mother - as deliberately, as eenecienticusly consciously as society trains them for business or for other professions. This is the supreme profession of human life. It is generally assumed that young people, upon reaching a certain age are ready for married life. Well physiologically they are ready, but much more is needed in preparation for marriage and home building. Knowledge -- knowledge of the problems involved in parenthood - in home management - in economic planning -- in the proper adjustment to situations. Ignorance and lack of preparedness, very often lead to disastrous consequences and disillusionments and much avoidable unhappiness.

And society may protect the home by removing from it those tensions and strains which are caused by poverty, by prolonged unemployment, by factors over which the individual has no control. A long economic harassment, strain, frustration, caused by want, worry, by insufficient income to maintain a tolerable standard of living — these factors are not conducive to a happy and enduring home.

But it should always be borne in mind that the absence of poverty and the presence of wealth, in themselves, have never been known to insure a successful marriage, or to maintain a happy home.

When all is said and done, my dear friends, it is the personal equation which remains the one determining factor in the situation. The school may educate. The church may instruct. Society may protect. But the individual man and woman, in the last analysis, must assume and bear the major — almost the entire — responsibility, for the enterprise of building and maintaining their home.

And without the exercise, unflagging and constant, of their utmost gifts of hearts and minds -- their utmost capacities -- their utmost loyalties -- their home will not withstand the pressures of the world, the "tooth and razere" of

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untoward circumstance.

Therefore, in the building of a home, I should begin, with a great design and a great designer. I should begin with God.

The Bible puts it quite simply \*

If it is not God who builds the house \*

Those who build it labor in vain. This was the conviction of a people, my dear friends, that has a genius for \* home life. And it was not merely a bit of religious formalism, or ritualism — that the Jewish home had affixed to its door post a Mazzuza. What was the purpose of affixing this little container — this Mazzuza — upon the doorpost of a home? Not for estentatious purposes and not merely to advertise that this home was a Jewish home. The purpose of it was to designate that this was a house which God had built. He was the designer of this house. The architect. In this Mazzuza there was contained, not only the classic declaration of our faith \* Sh'ma Yisroel, Adenoi Elehenu, Adenoi Fehod \* but there are other verses written on that little parchment — from the Book of Deuteronomy —"Thoushalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy might." And These words which I command thee shall be upon your hearts always." Here is a home, dedicated to God and to the things of God.

The designer of the home is God. Marriage and Family are Divine institutions, and the great design of the home was to be a full, free and blessed life, under God.

Now if you start out with such a design, and such a designer, then it will matter little whether your home will be large or small, built out of stone or brick or wood, or in the choicest neighborhood or not. There will be peace in it - peace in your dwelling. The foundations will be secure and life's deepest satisfactions will be found in it. Much may come later - years later -- after your home is built and however modestly it is built -- many of your homes for prosperity may be fulfilled, many may not be fulfilled. But the great design will remain, untarnished - undiminished

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and there will be light in your dwelling.

It is therefore much more important, when you plan a house - a home - to consider the design in a spiritual sense, than the color scheme or the carpets on the floor or the physical furniture in the home. It is much more important to determine at the outset what the spiritual scheme, the spiritual tone of the home will be.

If men and women start out with this great design of a full, free and blessed life under God, within the shelter of their home, then they will at once begin to practice ways of eager and voluntary cooperation to achieve that end, which will make for mutual completion and mutual freedom and which in turn will lead to contentment and pride and happiness.

People frequently overlook the fact that the home is the supreme cooperative venture in our society. It is amazing how this self-evident fact is frequently over-looked, and how often conscious or unconscious exploitation and competitive selfishness, go on under the guise of family life.

The domineering, head-strong, bossy would-be head of the family. The wife who humiliates and drains her husband's strength and drives him to distraction in order to provide her with what she thinks she needs in order to keep up with the Joneses. Children who exploit their parents in a most shmeful manner - demanding as a matter of right, things which parents can give only at the cost of great and needless sacrifice. And children, who in return, give nothing. All these - and there are all grades and varieties of them in society -- all these do not understand the obligations of cooperative living. They are cheats and parasites and exploiters. And sometimes the home, their home, survives in spite of them. But what a home - and what meanness and tragedy the roof of that house covers.

To live in freedom in a family is to share its freedom— and eagerly — freedom has meaning only within the framework of responsibility — within an arrangement of give and take — of just sharing of privileges and sacrifices. A home must have its moral constitution quite as much as the state and the first article in that constitution is, that all members of a home possess certain unalienable

rights. You might use the same words of our Declaration of Independence - right to life, liberty and to the pursuit of happiness. That belongs to each and every member of the family.

A successful home is built upon mutual respect by those who dwell therein. Husband and wife and children have common interests, of course, but they also have separate interests. Each has an "island within" a "private world", and family unity and family love and devotion do not call for the subjection or absorption of all personalities within the home into one personality. Each member of the home should be encouraged to preserve and to develope his or her interests, and to fulfill themselves. The child in the home should be guided and advised. Parents should never abdicate the duty of guidance and advice — and instruction — and help — to the child in every way they see best. But the child should never be coerced in the choice of his life's major interests and his career. The child is entitled to a freedom of self-realization later on in life.

Mother has interests beyond motherhood - social interests - civic interests - artistic interests. She should be free to cultivate them, quite as much for her own sake as for the sake of enriching the life of the family. And it will save her - save her - from the empty years when her children are grown and no longer require her constant care.

Father was an individual before he was married -- why should he be completely absorbed in the role of parent and provider. He owes it to himself as well as to his family to keep on growing intellectually, spiritually, not to surrender all the fine dreams of his youth.

A successful home is built upon mutual respect for the personality of each one within the home.

What builds a home? Not wealth. I have seen, and you have seen many wealthy homes wrecked. Not costly appointments. I have seen many beautiful homes, decorated by the finest and most expensive decorators - filled with arttreasures -- homes in which meanness - hatred - unhappiness reigned. Homes are not built by servants or

by governesses. Homes are built by character - by social intelligence. Homes are built by a boundless love which protects but does not consume. Homes are built by men and women who are willing to share burdens and disappointments, who know the mandates of cooperation -- who have mutual respect for each other. These are the qualities which build homes. Unfortunately there are not enough of these qualities in society today if we look around and see how many homes are broken - wrecked - with the resultant tragic delinquencies in children. Somehow these simple time-tested, home-spun virtues and wisdom have been forgotten by many in our day.

But these are the foundations upon which to build a home and later on, as the years move on, memories will enter the home and fill it with a beauty and - a consecration - and its walls will be covered by the patina of age and grace and lowliness.

If men start out with a great design, worthy of them and invite the great designer to plan the spiritual outlines of their homes, their homes will withstand the winds and the storms of adversity and they will find in it security and dignity and peace and happiness.

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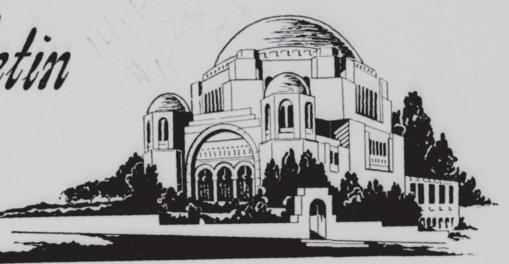
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Vol. XLIII

MARCH 10, 1957

No. 23

Sunday Morning Service

10:30 o'clock

WRHS

RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER

will speak on

How To Build A Home

Friday Evening Services 5:30 to 6:10 Saturday Morning Services 11:15 to 12:00

## The Jemple Bulletin

#### The Temple

Congregation Tifereth Israel (Founded 1850)

#### Rabbis:

## Abba Hillel Silver, D.D., Litt.D., D. H. L. Daniel Jeremy Silver, A. B., M. H. L.

Associate Rabbi Director of Religious Education

Ass't. Director of Religious Education MILDRED B. EISENBERG

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Ansel Road and East 105th Street SWeetbriar 1-7755

#### SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

On Sunday morning, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver will speak on the theme, "How to Build a Home". He will address himself to the subject of what is necessary in a successful home besides brick and furniture.

The doors of the Temple will be open at 10:00 A.M. The Service which begins at 10:30 A.M. is preceded by an organ recital of Sacred music by Mr. A. R. Willard Organist and Choir Director.

Guests and visitors to the Temple who desire to be conducted through the Temple and the Museum are asked to remain in their seats at the conclusion of the Service. A Temple Host will greet them and explain to them the many features of the Temple Building and of the treasurers which it houses.

#### MUSIC FOR SUNDAY

Organ	
Toccata	d'Every
Chant Pastorale	Dubois
La Nuit	Karg-Elert
Opening Psalm-Mah Tovu	Freed
Bor'chu (Congregational)	Sulzer
Sh'ma - Boruch (Congregational)	Traditional
Michomocho (Congregational)	Sulzer
Kedusha Traditional a	rr. Thatcher
Silent Devotion—Yihyu L'rotson Mr. Hakola	Weinberg
Before the Address	
Psalm 95—Let us Sing	Freudenthal

Miss Wischmeyer

Goldstein

unto the Lord

Olenu - Vaanachnu

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT** 

The flowers which will grace the altar on Sunday morning March 10th, are contributed in memory of beloved parents, Nathan and Mary Klausner, by their four daughters, Beatrice Gray, Doris Klausner, Arlene Wagman and Evelyn Casselman.

# TEMPLE SISTERHOOD JOINS IN SALUTE TO NEW AMERICANS

The Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations has recently inaugurated a new program in which Temple Sisterhoods are participating.

At the Court House, each Friday morning, a group of men and women are sworn in as citizens of the United States. Following this impressive ceremony, they are welcomed by Miss Fern Long of the Cleveland Public Library and volunteers of the Women's Federation then entertain the group. They serve light refreshments, show and explain a colored film which depicts the life, work and play patterns of the American people, and the program is concluded with the singing of our National Anthem.

Mrs. S. S. Reich and Mrs. Harry A. Cohn represented The Temple Sister-hood at a recent Friday morning program and report that they experienced an unusual and enjoyable morning, meeting and talking with people of varied backgrounds.

#### MR. and MRS. CLUB PLAN PURIM CARNIVAL

On Wednesday evening, March 20th at 8:30 P.M., Mahler Hall will be gaily decorated for the Mr. and Mrs. Club Purim Carnival. The shops and scenery of old Shushan will again come to life.

An entertaining program has been planned. Arrangements have been made for games, and for fun for everyone.

The announcements which are being mailed to members of the Mr. and Mrs. Club should not be thrown away—they can be redeemed at the door for tickets which will permit the holder to take part in the evening's games and activities.

Many prizes will be offered and refreshments will be served.

The Mr. and Mrs. Club cordially invite all Temple members to be their guests at this gay holiday affair.

Irving and Marti Weiss are Chairmen of this event. Jack and Rae Phillips and Robert and Marlene Bruder are Vice-Chairmen. Dr. Lawrence and Iris Fetterman are in charge of Publicity; Charles and Jan Wallach of the Food Committee; Lawrence and Shirley Rubin of the Telephone Committee; Don and Magda Neuberger of Booth and Decorations; and Arthur and Margery Shorr of Entertainment.

#### TEMPLE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

#### OPEN MEETING

Wednesday, March 13, 1957

1:00 P. M.

Mahler Hall

Guest speaker

MARQUIS W. CHILDS

World Traveler . . . Journalist . . . Author . . . Lecturer Interpreter of National and International Affairs

will speak on

"PRESSING WORLD ISSUES"

/

Refreshments served before the Program

Admission by Membership Card

Guests \$1.00

Sunday, March 24th, 1957 10:30 o'clock



The Temple is proud to announce a special Commemorative Service on Sunday morning, March 24th at 10:30 A. M. in honor of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver's 40th Anniversary as Rabbi of The Temple.

Formal announcements, including cards of admission to the Service, will be mailed to the members of the Congregation.

A special musical service is being planned for that morning. Mr. Richard Tucker of the Metropolitan Opera Company, and a lifelong friend of Rabbi Silver, will participate in the musical service.

## The Temple Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

# TO THE ABBA HILLEL SILVER CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND:

In memory of Mrs. Regina Schlesinger, mother of Mrs. Edwin Coben, by Mrs. J. Bendau, Mrs. I. Dworken, Mrs. P. Lieberman, Mrs. M. Lish, Mrs. J. Selzman and Mrs. E. Seltzer.

#### TO THE LIBRARY FUND:

In memory of Theodore T. Sindell, by Dr. and Mrs. Harold C. Klein; in memory of Theodore T. Sindell, by Mrs. J. Heller; in memory of husband and father, Herman Kempner, by Mrs. Bertha Kempner and Stanley Kempner; in memory of husband, Harry Yetra, by Mrs. Harry Yetra; in memory of parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Copenhagen, by Mrs. Harry Yetra; in memory of Katie Cohen, by The Wednesday Club.

### TO THE SOPHIE AUERBACH SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

In memory of Edward M. Baker, by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred A. Benesch; in memory of Rabbi Stephen Sherman, by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred A. Benesch.

#### TO THE FLOWER FUND:

In memory of husband and father, Herman Kempner, by Mrs. Bertha Kempner and Stanley Kempner; in memory of loving father, Moses W. Haber, by Mrs. Jerome R. Gardner.

#### TO THE MUSEUM FUND:

In memory of Mrs. Anna Rich, by Mr. and Mrs. Harry H. Klein and Mr. and Mrs. Norman B. Klein.

#### TO THE PRAYER BOOK FUND:

In memory of beloved son, Lt. Jerome H. Fishel, by Mrs. Alvin S. Fishel.

### TO THE JUDITH MEYERS MEMORIAL FUND:

In memory of Mrs. Regina Schlesinger, by Miss Mollie Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Gale, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Horwitz and Mr. and Mrs. Jules Matz.

## TO THE RICHARD ALLAN FISHEL HONOR KEY FUND:

In honor of the wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Stein, by Mrs. Coleman Spitz.

## TO THE IGNATZ ASCHERMAN MEMORIAL FUND:

In memory of father, Ignatz Ascherman, by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ascherman; in memory of grandfather, Ignatz Ascherman, by Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Kearns; a contribution from Mr. and Mrs. Eugene J. Ribakoff, Worcester, Mass.

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#### THE TEMPLE LIBRARY

"What do we want out of a book? \* \* \* First of all, a good book should add something to us, something that no one can thereafter take away from us. \* \* \* Secondly, a good book should take something away from us some ignorance, some fear, some selfishness, some dimness of the soul. \* \* \* In the third place a good book should interpret and explain what we ourselves, unaided perhaps, may find difficult to understand or appreciate. \* \* \* In the next place, a good book should set us not only thinking, but should challenge us to action. \* \* \* Finally, a good book should give us pleasure. It should increase our enjoyment of life. A good book should be a beautiful and pleasurable experience. \* \* \*

From "FIVE TESTS OF A GOOD BOOK" by
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

"We Jews are uniquely in need of books. This is a society in which Christianity is to a sense taught just by the living. Their holidays are public holidays, their scriptures are often serialized in the public press or retold in dramatic form on the mass media of communication. But our tradition our unique way of life, the reasons for our uniqueness and our distinctiveness are not public knowledge. You can satisfy yourselves about their reason, you can learn more about the purpose of the continuing differences which we maintain religiously between ourselves and our neighbors only by going to Jewish books and by spending a few hours of your life arguing with them, learning from them, digesting what they have to say."

From "WHAT BOOKS HAVE YOU BEEN READING?" by
RABBI DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

#### **Book List**

Essays in Traditional Jewish Thought	Samuel Belkin
Jewish Pilgrimage. Autobiography of an English Jewish Zionist	Israel Cohen
Jews at a Glance. Biographical sketches of prominent Jews	Mac Davis
Judaism under Freedom. Reconstructionist Judaism	Ira Eisenstein
Israel and Her Neighbors. Lectures delivered in 1956 at Brandeis U	niversity Eliahu Elath
Mystery of the Silver Fish and other Stories of Adventure	Eleazer Freed
Love and Knishes. A delightful cookbook	Sara Kasdan
Picture Story of the Middle East for Children	Susan R. Nevil
The Struggle of the Desert and the Sown. Rise and fall of agricultur	re
in the Levant	Adolf Reifenberg
Secrets of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Studies towards their solution	Hugh J. Schonfield
Ancestors and Immigrants. A changing New England tradition	B. M. Solomon
Discovery in the Judean Desert. The Dead Sea Scrolls	
Literature of Modern Israel. From the first Aliyah to the present day	Reuben Wallenrod
History of the Jews of Philadelphia. From Colonial times to the age of	of Jackson Edwin Wolf

#### Temple Memorial Book

The name of CELIA W. SELMAN

has been lovingly inscribed in The Temple Memorial Book by her daughter, Florence M. Selman.

#### FOR YOUR MARCH CALENDAR

March 22nd
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

An Evening with Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

to be held at the home of Robert Kates 14808 Shaker Blvd.

March 27th
TEMPLE MEN'S CLUB
and the
FAIRMOUNT TEMPLE MEN'S CLUB

Second Annual Inter-Temple Dinner

open to
Men's Club members only