



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.
Series IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

Reel
168

Box
61

Folder
1109

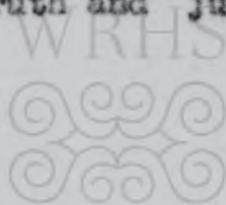
New Year's Sermon, 1941.

9-9-41
RH-41

I send you warmest Holiday greetings and best wishes for the New Year to the Jewish community of Cleveland. I pray that the coming year may be a better one than the last one for us and for all mankind.

The past years have tried us severely. We shall undoubtedly face other trials during the oncoming days. But this is our comfort that though the night is still dark, the faint rays of the approaching dawn are already visible.

Let us be strong in the strength of our faith, our history and our cause. A hard Judgment Day is upon the world. Evil and cruelty will be destroyed. Righteousness and brotherhood will be vindicated. God's truth and justice will prevail.



Abba Hillel Silver

The past year has tried us and mankind severely. We shall undoubtedly face other trials during the coming year. But this is our comfort, that though the night is still dark, the first rays of the approaching dawn are already visible.

In these days of war, persecution, and spiritual chaos, our reliance is, as of old, upon the God of Israel Whose everlasting mercy has never failed us. Our confidence in the ultimate redemption of mankind, and the coming of universal peace and brotherhood remains unshaken.

We begin our religious new year strong in the faith that the forces of truth and light will ultimately triumph over the forces of darkness and cruelty. We shall come into God's Sanctuary on the forthcoming Holy Days as into a place of refuge wherein peace and security forever abide.

The message which the ancient Festival of Rosh Hashanah brings to us is to be strong in the strength of our faith, our history and our cause. A hard Judgment Day is upon the world. Evil and cruelty will be destroyed. Righteousness and brotherhood will be vindicated. God's truth and justice will prevail.

Abba Hillel Silver

September 17, 1941

Cleveland News

1941

ABSTRACT OF SERMON PREACHED ON NEW YEARS AT THE TEMPLE -- BY DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

R H - 41

We face a new year, a year of grave uncertainty and of tribulations. The night of war is still dark but there are stars shining in the night. The brutal enemy of mankind has shown himself to be not quite as invincible as he appeared to be a year ago. Rather he seems to be bleeding from his costly victories. In the muck and the mud of the Russian Steppes, he is paying a fearful price for his unavailing triumphs.

The Europe which he conquered is a seething cauldron of unrest and rebellion. Beneath the dark embers of terror and reprisal there glow the fiery resentments of the oppressed but unconquered peoples. Those ashes will soon burst into flames. The military strength of his implacable foes -- the free peoples of the earth -- foremost among them our own -- is growing from day to day and from hour to hour, a veritable avalanche of retributive justice. The Day of Judgment is upon this Kingdom of Arrogance.

With the music of the solemn ritual of this day there reach us the voices of the sorrowful choir of a war-riven world -- sad voices of nations enslaved, of men tortured in concentration camps, of weary refugees tramping the broken highways of the world, of men dying upon the battlefields -- a mighty dirge of martyred humanity. God grant that when next we meet for our New Years celebration, other and happier voices will mingle with the song of our liturgy -- the voices of men and nations redeemed and restored, of people rising in hope out of their ruins and their follies, to build in peace the free and warless society, the Parliament of Man, the Federation of the World.

1) As we assemble - hearts filled with conflicting emotions.
 The year now closing - sad year - a hard year - a tragic year
 The incoming year is ushered in amidst grave un-
 certainty, apprehension and the alarms of war.
 As we meet here, to-night, we are aware that 1/2 of our people
 synagogues - have - g all.

Our burdened spirits will ; seek outlet in this an Holy
 season in Prayer. Earnest, devout prayers for ourselves -
 our children - our country and for all mankind.
 Prayer that the coming year may bring salvation for
 Israel and victory for mankind.

2). And with our Prayers ~~that~~ will also our hearts will also
 make ~~firm~~^{stronger} our resolutions to live worthily in these
 challenging times, to meet whatever comes to us cour-
 ageously, & gaily to make whatever sacrifices we are
 called upon to make, to do, what our people has done
 throughout the ages: "When enslaved they bore their fate
 with dignity; when free, they fought."

3). Our nation, tho nominally not at war, has, after long
 heart-searching, finally committed itself to do its ut-
 most to help the free nations of the world (to) crush the
 deadly foe of ^{the free} human freedom, who has for so long
 ravaged the ^{heart} ~~free~~, the world. Our total life is being
 put on a war-basis. Every thing and every one is being
 subordinated to the demands of nat. defence and the
 necessary assault upon Nazisim. The task will
 prove long and desperately difficult. Before victory
claims our efforts, much will be demanded of us,
 much more than many of us would normally care
 to, pay, in substance, comfort, labor, - ^{perhaps} by our
 very lives or those of our dear ones.

(2)

4). Our religion should help us to strengthen our hearts to make those sacrifices willingly, in the consciousness that our nation's hard task is a necessary task, its cause a just cause, and that without freedom and dignity which would be lost to us and to mankind were our nation not to pursue its present course, life itself would simply not be worth while.

5. ~~The Amer. people~~ The Amer. people has finally grasped the full significance of inter. cooperation - of that that enabled
 Self 22/2 2/11, 1911 1/11, 1921 p 1681
 "May they all form one band to do they will, while harkely,"

- Complete repudiation of moral isolationism.
- Cain - He, it was, invented ills - Covering up many successors - cowardly plea -
 The first "interventionist" - 318 - pursued - snuffed them
 For whose service refused to accept neither a thread
 Famous as a man of Peace, but he hurled - peace
 assaulted by brutal aggressor.
 It was this same Abraham - intervened - Readily.
 21167 - internal affairs - morally detached but
 diplomacy

- 6). Very essence - whenever 2 or more - set of mutual obligations
 a code which all are duty-bound. A crime ag. one -
 1921 1/11, 6
- Similarly whenever 2 or more nations - when one nation violates - all others are bound to avenge - chars!
 - There can be no Neutrality for any nation when internal. crimes are committed
 - There can be no inter. Peace achieved by Neutrality
 - Only by org. to defend peace, & by collective punishment

- 7). It is . . . not the so-called "Interventionist" who is the war-monger - but unmercifully the "Isolationist".
- Every nation in Europe - sought peace thru neutrality. Isolationism doomed them, one by one, to their ruin.

8) The Terms - ambiguous. The opposite

- The whole series of pol. disasters - of corporations to cheat inter. on Treaty when it first raised
- If in 1933 - Manchukuo; 1935-Ethiopia; 1936-Spain 1938-Austria and Czechoslovakia - nations in Abyss.
- If Amer. nations stopt by - watched Hitler grow -
- If outraged moral sense - strong enough - to call a half-cowardly line of Cain - Retaliated - old-fashioned
- Succession, is - not unusual in the past - cultured and enlightened ages - 200 yrs ago - Bohemia - Empress Maria Theresa - during War of the Austrian Succession - England intervened - So did Holland, Denmark, Venice and even the Holy See - Under Moral pressure - order revested -
- In 20c. such human. considerations no longer valid -
- Moral issues comes as small nations & minorities do not concern them.
- Until they themselves - slightly rejected

9). No! War cannot be isolated. Persecution cannot be isolated.
~~We fought~~ United, we stand -

10). There are still Isolationists among us - Vigilant
Am - disastrous course - of standing aside -
This, in spite -

- Some are out-right Nazis & Facists - who hope for a Hitler victory. (4)
- They like the kind of a world - New Order.
- They fear Social Reform, more > Dictatorship - Zembla divide nation - debacle.
- They are Isolationists only as far as Hitler is concerned.
- In this class belongs - Franklin - ^{"Wave of Future"} employ same technique - more - money more hate - same lies - proved no success yet - German Republic.

11) Others - who join the Am. First - hate England > than they love America. ~~but~~ ~~desire~~ -
World fails to see Eng. destroyed regardless who did it.
~~Open~~ Isolationism, too, is a cover up for greater other motives.

12) Sincere - Keep Am. out of war - Believes that Reps we respect their neutrality - we do not share their judgment represent a small minority of Am. people.

13) As far as we Jews are concerned - are not - never were
- are not for war - Unlike Nazis - Tradition
- First people - we suffer -
- But we know what moral indifference does - what
- it means to have a group martyred -
- we know that isolation in peace time
- we are convinced that whenever & wherever -
- part of morality - enlightened self-interest -
- Bible records - great Battle of Taaanach, by the
- waters of Megiddo - "Curse ye Moab, curse ye
- bitterly, its inhabitants thereof, because they came not
- to the help of the Lord, as against the Midianites."

14). We Jews believe - Virtue & Mankind -

Our Rel. allows us moral detachment & Isolation.

Cannot concede more dismemberment of Society.

= Decidedly - we oppose - Foreign Policy -

" " " Oppose -

" " " oppose - all channels -

Especially Moshe Beilis -

- If this is Propaganda "Uncle Tom's Cabin" -

- Hazem is as indecent - Sp. corrupt - Slavery

- all who expose -

15). Then even those who object to an expansion of Slavery -

even in the North - Lead to war -

- 1835 - demanded suppression of Free Speech but
abolitionists endanger peace of country.

John Greenleaf Whittier - (Read)

16). We Jews have been threatened! War-mongers!

- We have been told that if we do not oppose -

- Senators - striped to snub infamous tactics -
in their wild

- An old Nazi trick -

- We shall not be intimidated!

- Shall not surrender - open a covert threats -

- It is becoming Ernst the thing - Such gratuitous

- The Jews / Amer. will not repudiate

15). We Jews are not victors our country to Reb

- But we all know -

Americans of all creeds - Treaties -

If - this action - Hitler -

If this, is war-warreny - ~~that hit our enemies~~ make
the most of it.

16). We face a new year. the night, has is still dark. This
the brutal enemy - not quite as invincible
Bleeding from his costly victories.
By the wreck and the wind - vanishing shrivels
The Empire, which he imagined but not subdued
Beneath the dark embers -
The ashes will soon burst into flame.
The military strength - implacable foes - growing
a veritable avalanche of revolutionaries.
The last pl. - is here. The Day of Judgment upon
the Kingdoms being over.

17). With the music - sorrowful choir, the wail -
- nations enslaved - a mighty dirge -
God grant - other voices - voiceless society
the Parliament, man - Federation, the wail -
God grant - sinks, last dolorous like the "7th"

Shall tongue be mute, when deeds are
wrought
Which well might shame extremest hell?
Shall freemen lock the indignant thought?
 Shall Pity's bosom cease to swell?
Shall Honor bleed? -- shall Truth
 succumb?
Shall pen, and press, and soul be dumb?

No; by each spot of haunted ground,
 Where Freedom weeps her children's
 fall;
By Plymouth's rock, and Bunker's mound;
 By Griswold's stained and shattered
 wall;
By Warren's ghost, by Langdon's shade;
By all the memories of our dead!

By their enlarging souls, which burst
 The bands and fetters round them set;
By the free Pilgrim spirit nursed
 Within our inmost bosoms, yet,
By all above, around, below,
Be ours the indignant answer, -- No!

No; guided by our country's laws,
 For truth, and right, and suffering man,
Be ours to strive in Freedom's cause,
 As Christians may, as freemen can!
Still pouring on unwilling ears
 That truth oppression only fears.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

- 1). A year ago we met for - under sign - complex of - now known to Hist. ✓ as "Munich" - just a year ago, yesterday, circled) To-day - we meet - sign - a actual war [whole] Munich was prelude. But last R.H. - and this - sketches a fateful and stupifying year - a vicious and brutal year - for the world, a year of aggressions - invasions & conquests - of student war alternatives and fervent war preparations - of inter. invasions which men characterized as War of nerve. A year of devious and desperate diplomacy. maneuvering - climaxed by the now notorious Stalin-Hitler Pact. A year of tragic import for the world - for Israel.

- 2). One need but mention the Dismemberment of LG - the occupation of Albania - the bloody finale, the Sp. Civil War and the destruction of Sp. Republic - and the Japanese War in China to realize what sort of a year this has been for world. That year - 5699 - the last in the 7th century, the 6th millennium - now closes amidst the roar of cannons, the draw of burning planes, the flames of burning cities - the cries of the wounded and the dying. The War, long dreaded but long expected, is on! Terwoelders is here! The holocaust has begun! For more than 20 yrs. the nations of Europe have been sowing the wind. They have now begun to reap the whirlwind!

- 3). For our people - year 5699. a frightful year. Fortunes touched bottom. (62) 38 p.m. 1/2. Disasters piled up, upon our people. Osse on Behr. Area of persecutions widened largely, and intensity increased as Nazi orbit was extended. To the day of the Nov. - Hitler's death & Potsd

- Munich debacle was a calamity of first magnitude for our people
- Consequent dissolution of G - lost another 300,000 Jews under
territorial heel of Nazis. Since the dissolution of G, Jews -
~~their~~ ~~privileges~~ ~~had been~~ ~~been~~ applied to G. Jews -
- Organizations - disenfranchisement - confiscation - & expulsion
- Jews of Slovakia - handed over to pillars of power
- Finest and happiest J. community of Central Europe, destroyed,
as it were over night

✓ Poland - see paper -

4. Murdering chaos of Germ. Jewry reached their climax
Nov. 10th - when following assassination - Nazis unleashed
an attack - unprecedented in brutality - shocked the
world -

Tens of thousands arrested & sent to Con. Camps

many killed - survived

Bus. establishments looted and demolished - steal-burned
Mordeic Pogrom

600 young men brutalized & burned

one Billion marks - atom went fine - already imposed
- this was the most staggering blow yet administered to the
Jews of Ger. whose numbers in 6 short years have been re-
duced from 650,000, to less than 300,000, 1 where 30,000 are
still in camps, 20,000 committed suicide and 8000
even murdered.

5. Within the year - Hungary - adopted anti-J. legislation which
disfranchises them, thousands of H. Jews, drives them from public
service and severely restricts them in business and professions.
600,000 are now second-class citizens.

6. Italy, under pressure of Axis, has continued a policy of
excluding Jews from the full - clean - social life of Nation.

Poland - which by wrong of history - now fighting Nazis - infected
by Nazi Aut. virus -

Bills to curb, reduce - violent Au. attacks -

Rapport - student note - Committee

Danzig - German question - consideration of natl. unity
and defense in face of war -

✓ 1. 6 years of Flight - of Refugees - wandering - Children
E.S. St. Louis - which beggar description -
~~Blasphemy~~ - ZBONSYN

✓ 2. Spreading Auto's - abroad, at home -
Fostered by Nazis - pol. weapon

National Bigots - lay and cleric

✓ 3. A Black year - 1939 - One of blackest
- and all brutal - in a World Conflagration -

✓ 4. And that year now closes in a fitfully enough - and inevitably!

- It could not continue so indefinitely!

- The world had become too much of a mad house!

- So much evil and madness simply could not endure!

- It cried to Heaven!

- A break had to come!

- There is a point - even Satan - chaos - Hitler

- Nazi regime - source popular & mail, their fool -
had to be stopped - or civilization was at an end!

(Web) of intrigue, conspiracy, lies - torn -

10. How long could natives (live) in such environment and
new-wreaking Fear & War? strain of perpetual threat
¹⁴
How long could they stand this dread uncertainty - normal
life, normal human plans and activities impossible?
How long - draining of human substance, energy -
" " make their lives - children-dependent
Power-drunk mad men - presumed to dispose
How long - tolerate spectacle of small, weak natives -
ground under heel -
Covenants violated cast aside, ^{a new s his} _{deception, ignorance}
- all deceivias flourished
- all human liberties suppressed
- Religions and races persecuted as in Dark Ages
- world handed over to Beast, ^{rocky} _{mad} and desolate
adventurers, to internat. Daughters & Blackmail

11. World's patience was finally exhausted - The irreconcileable
conflict has finally broken out - and only blood and
tear can now wash away the sins of this generation.

12. There were those who felt that this was not an irreconcileable
conflict - North + South - but
- They defrauded what they called the ideological warfar
- They preached appeasement. Punish peasants, world by
constantly yielding to aggressors - concessions -
- Can there ever a noble man -
- Chamberlain was one of them - Leader of opposition
- After feeding ^{long-pain-suffering} part of Gvt "Peace in our life-time"

acclaimed - within 12 months he was confessing in
Parliament - (Doubt) "It is a sad day for all of us but for none is
it sadder than for me. Everything I had worked for, hoped for
and believed in during my public life has crashed into
ruins... I trust that I may live to see the day when
Hitlerism has been destroyed, and a restored and liberated
Europe has been reestablished" —

Europe has been reestablished —

✓ Ch. now talks ("Hitlerism") — For years he refused to recognize it — as a menacing ideology — as a way of life — as a barbaric philosophy dangerous in the extreme to all that we call civilization — ^{for reasons best known to us}

✓ And by refusing to recognize it — and by feeding it & allowing it to grow strong and powerful — we ^{in effect} of all warnings & clear signs, ~~that~~ by refusing to draw his pangs when the operations would have been very simple — H., Chamberlain, and his Tong gang, and their double followers in France helped ^{and bloodily} before this second World War — And their misfortunes went now to alone for by the death of countless men who went down upon the new battle field, Europe —

13. There is a Day of Judgment for nations as for individuals.
There is a law ^{written} ~~of God's creation~~ - None can escape it!
I began my ministry in the first year of the Civil War -
I came to Cleveland -

July 14-1919.

How full of hope!

Selj-dekem -

New World

Full of hope & visions - Universal Peace -

Right of appeal - Members - legis.

Ronald Muller

A few days ago - had to flee - Europe, again from wide open - a murk in a "Black-art" —

Proud Europe running to Cover - Holes - Cellars. 6
darkness - emptying - burying - slipping
And as one looks back - 1/4 c. war never ended
Never knew Peace - never deserved

Sept. 1939 - dread contamination - Nov. 1918

For nations repudiated Vision - Contaminated

Returned to their Vomit - scheming - rivalry
And now - Judgment Day is upon them - and
terrible

- 14). No one knows what will come out - prophecy
- The last war destroyed -
- What kind of a world - D. Ikernt - An Era closed
- Much will be destroyed - In which cannot
- We can only hope - pray - Suffering - Repentance
X Blood-stream - Sanative stream of cleansing - healing
- Return to Vision - Intern. Order
- End of Nazism - Complex - 1935 etc.
- Rights of all people - all minorities - all races
Dumps of purifying Race obscuris - cleared away.
Peace at last to sorely tried -

- 15). In olden days - 201b - sounded the alarm in time of war
Divine Rule - Alms - Retribution - Angels. // In this day of war alarm

'Forces of Truth Will Triumph'

BY ABBA HILLEL SILVER

Rabbi of The Temple

News
9-22-41

WE begin our religious new year strong in the faith that the forces of truth and light will ultimately triumph over the forces of darkness and cruelty. We shall come into God's sanctuary on the forthcoming holy days as into a place of refuge wherein peace and security forever abide.

The message which the ancient Festival of Rosh Hashanah brings to us is to be strong in the strength of our faith, our history and our cause. A hard Judgment Day is upon the world. Evil and cruelty will be destroyed. Righteousness and brotherhood will be vindicated. God's truth and justice will prevail.

The past year has tried us and mankind severely. We shall undoubtedly face other trials during the coming year. But this is our comfort, that though the night is still dark, the first rays of the approaching dawn are already visible.

In these days of war, persecution, and spiritual chaos, our reliance is, as of old, upon the God of Israel Whose everlasting mercy has never failed us. Our confidence in the ultimate redemption of mankind, and the coming of universal peace and brotherhood remains unshaken.

One day for Wishes -
Solomon - dream of wealth
Victory.

2) Understanding Heart - 8/16/21

Right-hand - gentle

{ I want to see you game, boys
& want to see you brave and
manly, and I also want to see you
gentle - WRHS



- Gentleman -

{ allow us man to be a greater
gentleman > say I am

3) Balance To eat well more

Dress over-dress, Play play
big. work-drive Ambitious =
Dignity - Poud environs

③ Shape of Alae -

Biskits made by
peanuts etc

④ God alone we are weak

Kirk - Fair - Evansy Calverd
Grateful + despit.

1. Solomon - understand Hart - 11C. 3

2. Goliath - How Hard Adam - bread
clothed - Author, p. 529

"It is hard to fail, but it is worse
never to have tried to succeed &
Thirst. Present

① To be fair - "I allow no man to be a
greater ~~enemy~~ ^{15:10b} ~~but~~ ¹¹ ~~to you~~ ^{to you} ~~but~~ ^{you} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~man~~ ^{man}"

② To seek right kind success

Motah ^{WRHS} Funeral mess - the
man who gives it - has gold in his
person, silver on his fingers, hair
in his face, & iron in his heart"

③ Grapes -

Adam - bread -

clothes