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Series IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

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New Year's Sermon, 1944.

No but is great contribution will R1144

My text on this New Year is taken from the fortieth Psalm. "I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the tumultuous pit, out of the miry clay and He hath put a new song in my mouth."

"I waited patiently for the Lord." How patiently we have waited these long, bitter years! These years of disaster and war. It seemed as tho they would never end. Year after year the power and might, the violence and cruelty of the enemy increased and multiplied. Like an irresistible avalanche gathering momentum as it hurtled onward, ~~it~~ engulfed every thing before it as the barbarian horde ~~swept~~ ^{to them} on over peoples and countries, leaving horror and death in its wake. ~~He~~ ^{the bitter he} jubilated in his merciless triumphs as he taunted his victims. He trumpeted aloud his insolent boasts: "I am, and there is none else beside me."

Many people and nations had come utterly to despair. For it seemed ^{to them} as if no one -- not even God -- could put a stop to this fearful scourge of ~~man~~ ^{humanity or could} or rescue them from the pit into which they had been hurled. Many weak men, ~~year~~ ^{scholarly}, whole nations collapsed ^{spiritually} before ~~and~~ ^{was hopeless and} collaborated with the enemy. Many others ^{were convinced} believed that ~~all~~ resistance ~~to him~~ should be abandoned, and that the world should come to terms with this unspeakable abomination.

But there were some who waited patiently for the Lord! They did not desapor! ^{the beaten}, they did not surrender! Terror-blitzed and bombed in their cities, or driven to the sea in shattered retreat, ~~and~~ ^{on seeing} their navies treacherously attacked and well-nigh destroyed, they ^{nevertheless} doggedly persisted and carried on in unbroken faith and incomparable courage. They waited patiently through the long, bitter, bloody years of danger and defeat. And in the end that faith and courage were rewarded! They were brought up out of the tumultuous pit, out of the miry clay into which they had sunk. Their feet were again set upon a rock. And today there is a new song in their mouths.

Certainly we Jews have waited patiently, prayerfully through the recent years of persecution, ~~organized~~ ^{honor} hate, and the menace of ^{total} extermination for a turn in the tide of

misfortune which swept over our people. Surely no people was ever hurled into such a dark, horrible pit as were the millions of Jews of Europe -- millions, alas no longer -- for in the millions there were slain in vast human ~~abattoirs~~ ^{indite} and crematoriums. What mouth can relate, what pen can ever ~~indite~~ ^{indite} the black chronicle of those terrible years! Where once there ~~existed~~ ^{flourished} large and ~~thriving~~ ^{prosperous} Jewish communities, there ~~now~~ ^{now} remains nothing ~~today~~ but heaps upon heaps of charred human bones, and ~~large~~ mass burial grounds. For a dozen years ~~this~~ gold-blooded assassin, who mastered a nation of supine and willing slaves ~~in~~ ^{and used it for} his deeds of infamy, an hysterical ~~people~~ ^{nation} sick with ~~visions of race-egoism and~~ ^{egoism and} and world-domination, went about the methodical extermination of our people, ~~all~~ ^{being} ~~the~~ ^{wielded} ~~to plan~~." Many among us Jews completely despaired, as they watched in helpless dismay the sickle of death upon one Jewish community after another, piling up ~~a~~ ^{the} ghastly harvest of ~~the~~ millions slain ^{in Poland alone}. Surely the end had ~~come~~ ^{they thought} for Israel!

But there were others, thank God, who did not despair, who walked by faith and not by sight, who felt themselves challenged, rather than crushed by their people's fearful suffering and who exerted themselves mightily in ~~deeds~~ ^{deeds} of succor and rescue, confident that the hour of redemption and vindication ~~must~~ ^{will} strike sooner or later. For this ~~is an~~ ^{they knew to be the} eternal theme in the prophecies of ~~our~~ ^{Jewish} destiny. ~~If we are to~~ ^{And so they, like their} ~~survive we must forever remain the~~ ^{ancestors, in all the sad and weary centuries of the exile, renewed} ^{אנחנו נחיה, אנחנו נחיה} the prisoners of hope.

"Those who hope in the ~~world~~ ^{Lord}, declared the prophet of the first exile, Isaiah, shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles." ~~It~~ ^{And such also} is the ringing message ^{also} of the Psalmist: "Wait for the Lord; be strong and let thy heart take courage. Yea, wait thou for the Lord." Twice is the phrase repeated: ^{אין אנו נחכה לו} "The Midrash is quick to comment upon it. ^{אין אנו נחכה לו} Hope after ~~hope~~!" If you have hoped and have nevertheless not been delivered, hope yet again! And if you say: how long shall we hope, there is the answer in ~~Ps. 131~~ ^{yet another psalm} "O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time forth and forever!"

And behold today this hope ~~has~~ ^{is finally being fulfilled} ~~done~~ ^{done} true. The hand of the avenger ~~has~~ ^{despatched armies} overtaken the assassin. His broken, bloody and ~~desecrated~~ ^{desecrated} columns are in headlong

rumours of the coming invasion of England. The British Empire was fighting for its very life, alone, with its back to the wall. This was in September, 1940.

September 1941 was no less tense. Russia was now in the war, but its armies were being beaten on every front. The Nazis were driving deep into Russia. They were in the Crimea and at the gates of Leningrad. The Russians suffered that month a disastrous defeat at Kiev. ~~On October 3,~~ Hitler announced triumphantly to the world: "Russia is already broken and will never rise again." His press chief proclaimed: "For all military purposes Soviet Russia is done with. The British dream of a two front was now dead." It looked very black for the United Nations in September 1941.

(And not much brighter in September 1942! Rommel was at the gates of Alexandria. He stood poised at Alamein, after having chased the British forces clear across the whole of North Africa. The fall of Egypt would have opened Asia, the Near East, and Palestine to the Nazis, even India for a possible junction there with the Japanese. And the Siege of Stalingrad began just about that time, too, ^{a siege which} ~~which~~ was to mean survival or extinction for Russia. A Million men were locked in that life and death grapple, ^{and} ~~these~~ men fought hand to hand, from house to house, and inch by inch. Everything was in the scale on that fateful month of September 1942.

(It was a happier Holyday season for us last September -- September 1943. The Allies were invading Italy! There was tense, bitter fighting on the beaches of Salerno. ~~in September 1943.~~ But Italy was out of the war, and Russia, having drained the life-blood of the Wehrmacht at Stalingrad, was victoriously ^{very} ~~laundry~~ing her own counter-offensive which within a year was to drive the invader completely out of Soviet territory and advance the Russian forces to the ^{very} ~~gate~~ of Warsaw and the borders of Germany.

And now, thank God, we are in the month of September 1944! And what a glorious month it is! What epoch-making events have taken place during the last few weeks -- are taking place today. Our victorious armies are invading Germany! France, Belgium ~~Holland~~ have been liberated. The Nazis' Allies and satellite states have one by one deserted ^{her} ~~them~~. They and their ^{the German} ~~wight~~ ^{might}, and their boasts and their lies are ^{being} ~~being~~

Lights are going on in England to-night - and all over the world
beaten into the dust. Europe is liberated! ^{Nazi} The end of this evil, shameless regime
the world and on our which caused *in sight!* ~~our~~ people so much suffering, blood and tears is ~~here!~~ We are looking
peace to you forward to the return of our sons, brothers, husbands from the camps and battle zones
to our homes, to blessed reunion and calmer happier days.

and to the Home Front
For the first time in many years, now, we come to our Holyday season with no
load of sorrow ~~and~~ *hearts.* upon our ~~shoulders.~~ Rather, restored in the strength of
vindication, ~~redemption~~ and new hope, there is today a new song on our lips! And a
prayer: -- the ancient prayer of thanksgiving:

The cords of death encircled me;
The tortures of *Sheol* found me;
I found trouble and sorrow;
But I called upon the name of the Lord.
"O Lord deliver me....
Verily Thou hast delivered me from death
Mine eyes from tears
My foot from stumbling
I will now walk before the Lord
In the lands of the living.



WRHS
Dear Friends! keep in remembrance
Let us ~~remember~~ *always* the text of these fearful years and
Courage, patience, faith!
never forget its message in the oncoming years. *Much* lies ahead of hope and promise
for us, for mankind, but also much of what will try the patience and the fortitude
of men's souls. The problems of peace will not be simple. The tasks of reconstruction
and world organization will not be easy. Our world, ~~will enter~~ *will enter* immediately after the
armistice, a difficult and dangerous period of convalescence. Nations ~~are coming~~ *will come*
out of the war rent, shaken and shattered economically and spiritually. The passions
of men will run high in the bitterness of defeat; in the hate ⁱⁿ of revenge, in rivalry, in
~~and~~ real or imaginary wrongs. At home we shall experience severe tests *as we try to*
~~the way~~ *our* to direct and control our production system for ~~as we had for war,~~
and to how (to maintain full production and general distribution and how to avoid inflation,
depression and unemployment: There will be strong economic tension between labor and

management, which even ^{the} war could not entirely ~~subvert~~ ^{obviate} ~~as we confidently hope~~

In these approaching years, before the world finally settles down to a long period of political and economic stability and ~~spiritual~~ equilibrium, we should remember to keep our courage up and our hopes unflagging, our minds cool and free from passions and fears, lest we repeat the disastrous folly of the years ~~immediately~~ following the last war — when in spiritual fatigue we ran away from the hard responsibilities of post-war reconstruction. We tired of war and of Europe, we wearied of ideals and noble purposes. ~~We were disgusted and~~ because all things did not turn out as we had expected, we wrote everything off as a bad job. We turned our back upon the League ^{and} upon the World Court, upon the vision of a united world. ~~We~~ ^{But} returned to what we fondly hoped would be normalcy and quiet and peace for us. ~~We~~ ^{Rather} achieved no normalcy, but disastrous economic inflation and a restless armistice which was only a prelude to another world war in which we were ^{soon} again involved. We despaired of a better world. International relations ^{we were convinced} forever doomed to remain in the reeking pit of intrigue and treachery and in their bloody clay of war. ~~We forgot that~~ ^{the same} For the winning of peace, ~~someone truly declared, the~~ ^{patience and faith!} same great virtues are needed as for the winning of war — courage, ~~loyalty, discipline~~ and ~~endurance~~. ^{6th} Let us never forget it.

As Jews, we should bear in mind that the end of Nazism will not end all our problems. Much of the dragon seed which the Nazis have sown all over the world will remain. Their damnable heritage will persist, and will make itself manifest from time to time in various ^{various} ugly forms. ~~We must remember that as a result of the Nazi conspiracy against~~ ^{an people all over the world, their vicious propaganda everywhere and the fearful devastation you can see at their hands} We have been set back a generation or more. ~~We have lost many positions.~~ ^{of fighting back} There is no doubt about it. It will take years to recover our former status, here and elsewhere. It can be done! But it will take a statesmanship and courage of a high order to accomplish it. And fearless loyalty, and pride in ourselves as Jews, and the intelligent exercise of our rights as free citizens in this blessed land.

We should not repeat the follies of the generations of Jews in Western Europe

A new song, for America. Let us fight hard now, not on another, but united against the enemies of economic security, depression, unemployment, poverty. America can be a comfortable home for all the children. There is room for all and food for all and much else besides. Courage to plan for a new order, faith in the future of abundance for all - that is and patience in the achieving of it - and faith in the certainty of its achievement - that is our challenge to day as we enter the era of reconstruction.

who thought that by denying themselves ~~on~~ ^{or} their Jewish allegiance, by assimilation and by loss of identity, cultural or religious, they ~~could~~ ^{outsmart and} evade anti-Semitism and thus solve the Jewish problem. It all ended ^{as you know} in bloody bankruptcy. There is no protective coloration ^{in modern} for Jewish ~~minorities~~ anywhere in the world. Assimilation and anonymity are worthless weapons. There is no security for us in wishful thinking ^{or} in offering the world unrealistic definitions of ourselves ^{and degrees of childish simplicity}. The world is not taken in by them. The world knows us as an historic people, not as a religious sect ^{only} or a denomination; ~~and~~ ^{a distinctive group regarding the factors which helped to create it or preserve it} and as such we shall have to win for ourselves a secure and honored place ^{to such} in the world.

We shall continue to live ^{in the future as in the past} as a distinctive minority group in the world and ^{we shall} ~~will~~ be so recognized by the world whether some of us wish it or not; and we shall have to defend our right to such an existence in full dignity and equality along with all other minority groups, religious, or racial in ^{like} democratic society.

Our tasks lie clear before us. We must unite with all men of good-will everywhere to champion and defend the rights of all groups, all races, all ^{all nationalities} ~~creeds~~ ^{under the} in a world of just and equitable laws. The right to live, to work, to share ~~equally~~ ^{equally} in the ~~fruits~~ ^{fruits} of democratic opportunities, education, and in the ~~rights~~ ^{rights} ~~privileges~~ ^{privileges} and ~~responsibilities~~ ^{responsibilities} of citizenship - ~~these things~~ ^{these things} that we must fight for on all fronts for all men, if we wish to make them secure for ourselves.

We must also work with all our fellow-Jews everywhere to ~~heal~~ ^{heal} the wound ^{which} of the war, inflicted upon our people - to rebuild shattered communities, reunite scattered families, care for the ^{rehabilitation} ~~restoration~~ ^{rehabilitation} of fellow-Jews wherever possible, reopen their schools and academies and revive their spiritual life.

RH-44

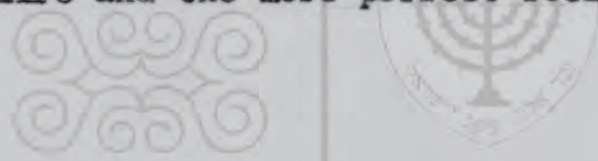
NEW YEARS GREETING
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

May God grant to all of us a year of health,
happiness and spiritual contentment.

May the coming year be a year of peace for our
beloved country and for mankind.

May it witness the return of loved ones to their
homes from the distant battlefronts of the world and the blessed
reunion of families and friends.

May the coming year also close the dark and tragic
chapter in the history of Israel and may it begin a brighter
chapter which will record the story of our people, redeemed from
fear, hate and persecution, living in peace and security everywhere
in the world and working with all men of good will for a just
and noble way of life and the more perfect society.



8-29-44

1) My Text....

R14-44 ①

"I waited patiently for the Lord" - How -
It seemed - year - like - avalanches
Bitter foe jubilated in - Triumphal

2) Many people + nations - despair. It seemed
not even God - scourge, rescue
Many went over - nations collapsed
But - "who waited patiently for the Lord" -
did not despair - The Beaten - Terror -
Blitzed - doggedly -
They waited patiently - long, bitter, bloody
And in the end - vindicated - Brot up!
feet set again - new song!

3) Certainly, we Jews - turn in tide
Surely no people was ever humbled - put.
as Umlauts - alas - slaves -
What mouth -
When once flourished
For a dozen years this old - blooded Gess
Many Jews v truly despaired - Sicily
piling up - ghostly harvest - End!

4/ But there were other Jews, thank God - walked,
challenged & exerted, confident -
Eternal theme - and so they, like their
אבות אבות -

- "Those who hope - renew - mount up"
- Ramping message - Psalmist - "Wait for
the Lord, he strong and wait for the Lord -
- Twice - א"ה א"ה - Midrash - "Hope after
Hope" - If - "How long - shall we hope?"
- "O Israel hope in the Lord, from this time forth

- 5/ And behold to-day this hope, so long deferred
- the hand, the Crusher
- His broken, dismantled armies - Reckless
- Death and destruction - ravaging - Fleeing!
- Fearful now - resolute justice
- This shameful regime - so much -
bottomless oblivion
- But Israel - desert - the only
pit-rock - every land - Sing!

6). How different is this holy day season (3)

It seems as tho destiny had selected
① Recall Sept. 1938! Month of Munich!
beginning of the 1st. desasters -
with what heaving hearts - tragedy -
dismemberment - Triumph, bitter - collapse
of League - breakdown of Europe
Chamberlain - Berchtesgaden, Godesburg
chattering - digging trenches - but for what
That was ¹⁹³⁸ - holy day season - 1938!

② In Sept. 1939 - 2nd World War has begun
and we watched, even as we gathered - lights
eclipse - Poland - Warsaw

③ In Sept. 1940 - ~~now~~ we were again here
and terribly apprehensive - as we watched
London - subjected - all out -
Paris - fallen - France - capitulated.
Dunkirk - air full of talk of our
British Empire was fighting for its life -
Then was Sept. 1940!

④ Sept. 1941 - was no less true. Russia ⁴
was now in the war-broken.

✓ Nazis driving deep - Crimson - Leningrad
Kiev. Hitler - "Russia is already
broken and will never rise again"
It looked very black - Sept. 1941

⑤ And not much brighter in Sept 1942

Rommel - gate of Alexandria - posed
Alamein - Fall of Egypt

Stage of Stalingrad - survival

A miraculous was - Everything was in the dark

⑥ It was a happier holiday season, Sept. 1943

allies invading. Italy! (Salerno!)
Italy out of the war!

Russia - drawn -

⑦ And now, thank God, we are in the
month, Sept. 1944! And what!

Our victorious armies - invading Germany

France - Belgium -

Nazi or Hitler - German night - has
End in light

(5)

Europe is liberated -
lights are going on England to - with
the end of this evil - so much.
We are encouraged to look forward to
early return -

For the first time - we come to Holy day
Rather, restored in spirit - a new song
ancient psalm of thanks, (very good)

7). Dear friend - Remembrance -

Much lies ahead -
Problems of peace - simple
Tasks of reconstruction - easy
Our world - difficult, dangerous - ~~conclusion~~
Nations will come out
Passions of men will run high in battles
At home - strong tensions

8). In these approaching years, before our
world settles down - remember
Keep our courage ~~light~~ high -
lest we repeat - the past

post-war reconstruction

16

We tried -

Because all things - And yet
Turned our back upon League-
vision of a united world.

Normalcy - we achieved no honesty

- Impatiently we despised a better world

- Inter. relations. must forever - recking
put - unify, bloody day & war

- We forgot that winning the peace requires
Courage, Patience, Faith!

- Let us not repeat the same mistakes

- Fight for a just peace - creation

- It can be done! not beyond

- There must be no repentance

- Let there be an upsurge -

- Let there be an end - unhappily
repetition of errors

- There should be a new song in our heart.

9). And a new ^{- a fighting song} song ^{also} for America! (7)
Let us fight hard - not each other -
America can be a comfortable home
There is room here for all - and food for
Courage to plan - Patience - Faith
this is the challenge - as we enter

10). As Jews - bear in mind - and Nazis -
Dragon seeds - remain -
Their damnable her toys - manifest -
We must remember that as result
world-wide conspiracy
We have been set back a generation or more
No doubt about it!
It will take years of fighting back
It can be done! Take State membership
and financial loyalty - & funds in ourselves
and unflinching exercise of our rights
as free citizens, this House stand

11). We should not repeat the folly (8)
who that - by denying ev. - j. allprave
assimilation - out smart - evade

It all ended, as you know, in bloody bankruptcy
There is no probation collaboration for unjust
assimilation and anarchy are not the
weapons

There is no security - without the
offering - unrealistic - dogmas
of childish simplicity

World is not taken in by them!

World knows us - historic people
not as a rel. sect only

- a distinctive people regardless

And as such we shall have to win
a secure and honored place

And defend our right to such an expression
in full depth and equality along with
all other minority people rel. or racial
in a democratic society.

17. Our general tasks

① We must unite with all men of good will
champions - rights for all
in a world of just & equitable laws
The right to live - work - share
these things we must fight for on
all fronts - for all men if we need

② We must also unite - fellow Jews -
bind up wounds - rebuild - recruit
car officers - assist rehabilitation
schools -

③ Finally - complete - great work
hist. task - project -
war shattered 1000 years -
Helped to save - stands ready
Needs pol. autonomy - freedom
Jews would be wise - for to be kept
ideal - disputes - possible only
agenda -

13/ And so, dear friends, lessons gird us ⁽¹⁰⁾
confidence, resolution - summers
we have seen - how mantled "passes"
in their present wrong - eternal right
"Steady fair 7 man"
And - more in to bellying hangers
1 to-morrow



"I waited patiently for the Lord; and He
inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He
brought me up out of the tumultuous pit,
He set my feet upon a rock
out of the miry clay, and He hath put a
new song in my mouth."

"The cords of death encircled me;
The tortures of Sheol found me;
I found trouble and sorrow;
But I called upon the name of the Lord.

"O Lord deliver me....."

Verily Thou hast delivered me from death
Mine eyes from tears
My foot from stumbling.
I will now walk before the Lord
In the lands of the living.