



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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Series IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

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New Year's Sermon, 1945.

RH-45

It is a ~~crisis~~ ^{crisis} with lighter hearts - hopeful spirits - greet - with glad greeting
It is some years now since we could speak whole-heartedly of "good"
Years of war are not "good years" - & our R. Hs during last 5-6 yrs
were ushered in under the threat, the uncertainty or the dread reality
To night we can speak hopefully of a new year -

The War is over! The long, dark night of terror, slaughter & ~~war~~
is ended! Peace has finally come to a ravaged, weary
world!

This new year ~~with~~ comes with healing in its wings. ^{in the wings}
Nations are rejoicing. There is joy in the habitations of

men.
And ~~as~~ ^{we} can dance and sing, and ~~hands~~ ^{cheers} are lifted up in
great relief. They thank confidently of the coming of
the "good year," of many "good years" in lieu of the
bad and bitter years which they experienced.

2/ We have much to be thankful for, this new year eve.

The year now closing has been one, the most amazing, one, the most
dramatic and momentous, in human history.

How can so much drama be packed into 365 days!

And how can the mind of man encompass it all - and
the heart of man contain all ~~its~~ ^{the} excitement, ~~its~~ ^{the} surprises
and ~~its~~ ^{the} grandeur! ("Annus Mirabilis" John Dryden - 304 stanzas
Success of David with Holland & Fire of London)

Last Sept. our armies were still fighting, in Belgium and
France and N. Italy, Germ. home territory had not yet been

The Russian armies were still outside of Warsaw.

~~The army was still in Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia and Greece~~
Robot bombs were falling on London.

The Philippines were still in Japanese hands. Not yet invaded
Hawaii and Okinawa - two Jima

(2)
~~Our air bases near Kweilin were destroyed by our own~~
~~air-craft in the face of the Japanese threat to the Am.~~
~~military effort in China.~~

~~British~~
~~Allied~~ air-borne troops had suffered a disastrous defeat at
Amheim.

Our forces were stalled at Aachen. ~~Bulge - from June~~
As late as Dec. the Ardennes offensive - Battle
the Bulge -

That was 12 months ago -

3) Then hit a rolling avalanche ^{in the spring} came the victories ^{the advances}
from the East & the West & the South. ~~Europe~~ ~~Europe~~
The crossing, the Rhine - The conquest, one city after another
capitulation, surrender. The fall, Berlin!

The collapse, Fascism & Nazism! The ignominious death
Marches in the gutters, Hindenburg - The suicide, ^{Nazi} ~~Hitler~~
~~fables and Nazi fantasies~~ - The end for traitors, all the
^{and} ~~chief criminals~~. V E Day.

And finally - the ^{fighting} ~~war~~ ^{ring} around Japan - The Atomic Bomb
and collapse! V J DAY! ~~V J Day~~

What a year! How crowded with breath-taking events - How
gloriously consummated in Victory & Peace!

4) We have reason to be thankful - for the return of our sons ^{safe} ~~safe~~
Some soon to return - all no longer in danger - reunited - ~~safe~~

5) Victory for democracy - peace & freedom - Decadent - tainted -
Germany was again vanquished.
To totalitarianism - statism - racism - chauvinism went
down to defeat again -
Their all-out, shameless, challenge to civilization was met.
and they were utterly crushed.
The ~~shameless~~ ^{prayers} philosophy, the superman and the super-race
was ripped into shreds by the democ. faith in human
equality and the rights, all men to life liberty.

6) We have reason to thank for the great victory
but satisfied with winning the war. - Insure the Peace -
Another magnificent attempt was made this past year at S.F.
to establish a world order, peace & security. - A Charter
of the United Nations - (Preamble).

Only frame-work for cooperation -
"No charter, and no machinery can overcome widespread bad
faith or ill will or malice or complacency" - Mr. Stassen.
But the machinery is there to be used - and the prospect
that in future all peoples "can help to improve their
conditions while at peace" - Adjudicate inter. differences.
Efforts will be made to solve underlying causes of Econ. war -
fare & in further.
And non self-governing peoples will be helped to self-
govt. & independence.
And efforts will be made to protect basic human rights

But somewhere is as a deep & bitter in our cup of joy part (1)
7/ But even as we rejoice we cannot forget the horrors of the recent
years - which the Jews enabled us to ~~approach~~ survey and
assess.

What a frightful toll of human carnage, ruin and des-
truction, the bombed and gutted cities, the millions upon
millions of homeless, what disease and starvation!

The unspeakable hecatombes, the Nazi concentration camps
were finally disclosed to the a horrified world!
Belsen - Buchenwald - Theresienstadt

and the ghastly tale of 6 M. Jews sent to death in gas-
chambers - & slaughter pens.

I listened in London to the tale of eye witnesses who had
come from Buchenwald, & Theresienstadt & Wasserkuppe.
Men and a woman who had miraculously escaped -
one the brave leader, the Warsaw hero - as a
Soviet partisan - 1 of 2 survivors, ⁸⁰⁰ ~~100~~ - who said that
he could plant mines easier than make speeches
in public.

It boggles description. The mind cannot even pass
such enormities -

Poland had 3 M. Jews - 5000 children left, 90,000.

The butcheries of Joseph's Khan & Attila the Hun pale -

It has been reported that at Buchenwald - 2 M. arrives.
- gassed & burnt -

The ~~numbers of all~~
~~of~~ Jewish martyrs from the Yankee - to 1940 - exceeded
by the slaughter, the 5 M. - 1940-1945

Great Br. & the U.S. lost - less > 600.000 - The J. people (5)
6 M. - ten times that no. This was indeed a war upon the J.
people - If we were inclined to give vent to sorrow - here
is occasion for boundless grief - for measureless anguish.
- But life demands something else of us!
- From their unmarked graves, they, our precious forgotten dead,
plead ^{with us} for our tears, for a new manner of consecration -
to help the remnants who survived - to work with in-
creased devotion for a world-order where such things
~~it~~ can never happen again - and to build a ^{secure} home for ~~the~~ ^{these}
people, whose national homelessness has been the ~~most~~ ^{source} of
this appalling tragedy ~~but~~ ^{as well as} the many which preceded
it in the long, checked history of Israel.

8) - The survivors - and there are only 1,400.000 left in Europe,
outside the borders, the Soviet Union - want to get away from
the Continent where they had suffered so horribly and where
all their memories are of torture, death and hate! They want
to go to free lands beyond the seas - where free lands,
unfortunately are not willing to receive them. Especially do
they wish to go to Palestine - They lift up their eyes
to the land which Jews have built, to the ancient, storied hills
of S.Y. and they pray that there, there, help must come to
them!

9) This is the test of our generation - the undeniable challenge
of our covenanted brotherhood!

— The remnants of Israel must be saved.

— The nat. ~~homelessness~~ ^{life} of Israel must be made secure at
last in a land of its own - ~~that~~ a haven of body
or spirit for those who choose to go there - for those who

- = must go there, having no others else to go.
- = We have come through a vast tribulation - the most ~~searching~~ ^{searching} and calamitous in human history!
- = But we are unbroken in spirit! Those who sought to destroy us are dead. We are alive.
- = We face the future without fear! Our heads are high!
- = Our reservoirs of intellect, will & spirit are full to overflowing.
- = 70% of those great minds who were freed from within the secret of atomic energy which is destined to revolutionize the whole life of man - were Jews!
- = In every field of human effort and endeavor - arts - sciences - sports & day after day ^{by our own people} ~~by our own people~~ ^{who they} at peace or persecuted and in exile, are at work with dynamic energy, making their contributions to the well-being of the world.
- = Conscious of our vision - life, past & capacity ^{energy} ~~we~~ ^{we} ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ the turn and darkness, the last few years into the light, the new age - 2001/1 2001/2 2001/3 2001/4 -

10/ And so will the American people -

^{It can be done}
= It must be done! (better than Hitler)

(8)

It must be done! Else Hiroshima & Nagasaki will be
as nothing compared with the total ruin which will overtake
our world.

The choice lies but a radical change of heart is inevitable.

The world will choose life - not death!

The potentials of death & destruction are now fully known
to us. The sword of Damocles now hangs over mankind!
Mankind must evolve the power, the spirit to cope with this



1/ Custom - With lighter hearts - It is some years ^{RH-45} now
years of War - and our R.H. ushered
War is over - Night - Peace has finally - Healing -
There is Joy - To-day we can greet - & think confidently

2/ Much to be thankful for - Year - most amazing -
One wonders how can so much drama - 365
How can the mind - heart contain -
"Annus Mirabilis" - If that is a
Last September - bitterly fighting - Belgium - Russia
Robots - Philippines - Leyte, Luzon, Okinawa -
Arnhem - Aachen - "The Bulge" - 3 months off -
That was 12 months ago.

Then like an avalanche in Spring the victories
Advances from all directions - Rhine - City
Towns capitulated - Annies surrounded - Berlin
Collapse of Fascism & Nazism - Goebbels' death -
Suicide of gangsters - arrest V-E Day!
Tightening Ring round Japan - Atomic Bomb
V-J Day!

What a year! How crowded with breath-taking
How gloriously consummated in Total Victory!

3) Thankful - return of our sons - soon to return - out of
Special prayer danger

4) Thankful for V. of Democracy! Forces of Freedom! Decadent!
Not Dem. but Tyranny was vanquished.

Totalit - Statism - Racism. Chauv. went down to
their arrogant challenge met + they were crushed
The shameful plans of Supermen. Super-race
ripped into shreds - human equality + rights all

5) Thankful - another kind of victory - more important
A great effort, an earnest effort - S. Frame. to establish
a new world order - Charter. (Just)

Only framework for cooperation - Only Machinery - not all
And no Charter - no machinery - perfect

But the means, at least, are here -

Peoples can hope to improve - without resort
Causes of econ. warfare and injustice - without
non self governing peoples can be helped - without
Basic human rights

6) But our cups of joy is not without its bitter drops of Remembrance
Caused forget horrors - which coming of Rec-survey
what a frightful toll of human carnage - man-broked
+ gutted cities - millions of homeless - starvation
Unspeakeable bestialities - disclosed - Belser

And the ghastly tale of the 6 M. Jews

I listened - eyewitnesses - Oswiecim -

One a brave leader - guil - Beggars - No mind can
compass enormity

- 3 M - 5000 children - 90.000 left - 2 M. oswiecim

- If all the martyrs - added

- Great Br. + U.S.A - This indeed was a war of

- If one were inclined to give vent - boundless grief
measureless sorrow

+ But life demands something else of us!

+ From their unmarked graves - plead -

+ The survivors - 1.400.000 - get away from continued

7). This is the task of our generation! - Undeniable challenge

The remnant of Israel must be saved!

The nat. life of Israel must be made secure in a land
a haven for the body or spirit

+ We have come thru a Great Tribulation - searching

+ But we are unbroken in spirit. They who sought
- are dead! We are alive!

+ We face the future unafraid - Heads high (Reservans)

+ 70% - In every field of human quest -
are at work

+ Conscience - emerges - whole life

8) And that is true, also, of the American people. (4)
Every thing that has happened in last few years -
the gathering of the forces of our Democ.
the great rebound - amazing organization.
the ~~new~~ unbroken - the Emergency, Atomic bomb
all proclaimed in our mighty chorus - that whatever
- new heavens - once we free ourselves - run +

9). America will be greater & ever before in wealth -
- if so we will it.

It is far more difficult, of course, to release -
But it can be done! ^{By some means} ~~It must~~ (MacArthur)

It must be done! Hiroshima - Nagasaki

Choice - changed heart - annihilation -

World will choose life!

10). I envy the young people!

This is a great age for youth to grow up in
In a real sense - just at beginning - threshold

When they return - may the gods -

may they face - larger spirits - stent hearts

~~And~~ 1946 - a good year - a good age

The San Francisco Charter: Goals and Achievements

Our joint study of authoritative Catholic, Jewish and Protestant statements on a just world order, entitled "Goals for San Francisco" was made public on April 5, 1945. The first recommendation stressed the imperative need that the San Francisco Conference succeed and the security organization be established. The remaining nine agreements dealt with specific constructive recommendations for the United Nations Charter. What progress was made in San Francisco towards these nine goals? In order to provide the data upon which those who subscribe to the "Goals for San Francisco" may judge the progress made, we submit herewith the text of our 9 recommendations and the corresponding provisions of the United Nations Charter. The text of the nine recommendations and the new provisions since written into the United Nations Charter follow. (*)

REV. RICHARD M. FAGLEY
*Secretary, Commission on a
Just and Durable Peace, Fed-
eral Council of the Churches
of Christ in America.*

RABBI AHRON OPHER
*Secretary, Committee on
Peace, Synagogue Council
of America.*

REV. EDWARD A. CONWAY, S.J.
*Social Action Department,
National Catholic Welfare
Conference.*

PREAMBLE:

The Charter of the United Nations Organization should acknowledge in its preamble that the actions of States are subject to the same moral principles as govern the conduct of individuals.

We the Peoples of the United Nations

Determined

to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

To establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

To promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

And for These Ends

To practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors, and

To unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

To insure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

To employ international machinery for the promotion of economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Have Resolved to Combine Our Efforts to Accomplish These Aims.—Preamble

* Amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals adopted at the San Francisco Conference are italicized in this text.

MEMBERSHIP:

The Charter should specify that membership will be open to all States willing and able to fulfill the obligation of the Charter, so that membership may become universal.

Membership in the United Nations is open to all other peace-loving States *which accept the obligations contained in the present Charter and, in the judgment of the organization, are able and willing to carry out these obligations.*—Chapter II, Art. 4, 1.

* * *

INTERNATIONAL LAW:

The Charter should provide for the codification and development of international law and for its impartial enforcement.

The purposes of the United Nations are: 1. To maintain international peace and security; and to that end . . . to bring about by peaceful means *and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law*, adjustment or settlement of international disputes.—Chapter I, Art. 1.

The General Assembly shall initiate studies and make recommendations for the purpose of . . . *encouraging the progressive development of international law and its codification.*—Chapter IV, Art. 13, 1.

Each Member of the United Nations undertakes to comply with the decision of the International Court of Justice.—Chapter XIV, Art. 94, 1.

If any party to a case fails to perform the obligations incumbent upon it under a judgment rendered by the Court, the other party may have recourse to the Security Council, which may, if it deems necessary, make recommendations or decide upon measures to be taken to give effect to the judgment.—Chapter XIV, Art. 94, 2.

* * *

PEACEFUL CHANGE:

The Charter should provide more explicitly for the revision of treaties and other agreements when such action is required by justice and the good of the world community.

Subject to the provisions (to refrain from making recommendations on a dispute while it is being dealt with by the Security Council) the General Assembly may recommend measures for the peaceful adjustment of any situation, regardless of origin, which it deems likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations among nations, including situations resulting from a violation of the provisions of the present Charter setting forth the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations.—Chapter IV, Art. 14.

* * *

SMALL NATIONS:

The Charter should safeguard the economic and political rights of small nations and assure them an adequate share in shaping the policies of the organization.

RH-45
1945

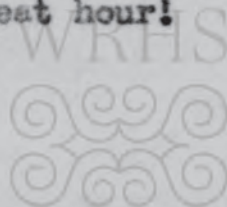
NEW YEARS GREETING
Abba Hillel Silver

We begin the new year under the most auspicious circumstances -- the happiest in many years. The Second World War is over. After six long and dreadful years, peace has finally come to a ravaged, suffering and weary world. Men and women are awaiting eagerly the return of their sons and daughters from the battle areas of the world to their homes. Mankind is turning its attention to healing, reconstruction and a new life.

God grant that Rosh Hashanah 5706 may usher in a new age, a long unbroken era of good will, prosperity and happiness for the whole of mankind!

The Jewish people is turning over a new page. The immediate past has been the darkest and most tragic in our history, but we are emerging from the dark shadows into the light of a new day with faith unshaken in our destiny and our trust in the living God.

Tomorrow is summoning us to new duties and responsibilities in ~~the~~ world of peace and freedom. Let us resolve to rise to the challenge of the great hour!



1945