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New Year's Sermon, 1948.

ABSTRACT OF SERMON PREACHED
BY DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER OF THE TEMPLE
ON NEW YEARS EVE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1948

This is a holiday celebrating significant beginnings. It celebrates the beginning of a New Year. Traditionally it celebrates also the beginning of the world and the creation of the first man. We are admonished by our faith that life must be a series of new spiritual enterprises and new moral undertakings and commitments. No man is so good and just that he can rest on his record. No man is so evil and sinful that repentantly he cannot make a fresh start. This call to constant renewal is evidence of the essential hopefulness and optimism of our faith.

Israel has enjoyed during this last year an amazing renewal. After 2,000 years it has been privileged to enjoy a new beginning as an independent nation in the ancient land of Israel. This is a glorious vindication of the principle that great new beginnings are possible if the will is there and faith persists. All beginnings are difficult, and the new state of Israel is beset with many difficulties, but the faith which achieved the miracle of renewal will be strong enough to maintain it.

Our world needs a new beginning. What we see about us today is the old stagnation and the old corruption which have led mankind in our day from one disastrous war to another - the same old power politics, imperialistic rivalries, war-breeding slogans - the same shameless propaganda and the same mad race for armaments.

There is not a new note in the world today, not a single clarion call on the part of any great nation for repentance and a fresh start; nothing but mutual re-
crimination and incitement. Three years after the last World War, which nearly destroyed our civilization and which was climaxed by the debut of the atomic bomb at Hiroshima - a foretaste of what the next war will be like - we find ourselves already in the midst of a Cold War which men suspect is the prelude to the Third World War.

The United Nations, upon which so much hope was placed and the organization of which was to be atonement for the human holocaust of two world wars and an insurance against their recurrence, has turned into a sounding board for angry and baffled statesmen who berate one another to the utter confusion and bewilderment of a suffering world. Our own country has introduced military conscription during the year and is pouring out its resources not only to arm itself to the teeth, but to arm half the world against the other half. We are all convinced that it is all the fault of the Communists and the Kremlin. Everyone in the Soviet Union is convinced that it is all the fault of the imperialistic-minded America. And of course, no one in Great Britain doubts that Great Britain has any responsibility whatsoever for what is happening in the world today. Great Britain can do no wrong either in Greece, Palestine, Cyprus, the Far East, or in any other part of the globe.

But where will all this lead to? Is there to be another test of strength on the battlefield? Or shall we hope that one side or the other will soon back down? Perhaps the best that mankind can hope for is a precarious, long drawn-out and costly armed truce.

But is this the final answer? Is it the best that mankind can achieve - the best that homo sapiens, the revealer of the deep-most secrets of nature, can produce? Or should mankind not make a new beginning on that moral reformation of men and nations upon which alone the establishment of any world organization for peace can be predicated. This, of course, is not an immediate solution. There are no immediate solutions for the terrible problems which beset our world. But there never will be any solution until people, morally alerted, begin to demand of their governments observance of the same ethical and moral principles which governments expect their citizens to observe. The principle of the separation of politics from ethics, the idea that states and governments are subject to a law and code of practice of their own which may rightfully differ from those of individual men is largely responsible for our international chaos.

A Machiavellian concept of political expediency and balance of power are at the root of the political bankruptcy of our day. Political "realism" and economic materialism are not the monopoly of the Soviet system. They disfigure the action of most of the great powers today.

There is desperate need for a new beginning - a spiritual reformation in governments and the abandonment by all organized groups, whether political or economic, of the right to determine their own moral law. If there will be no new beginning, then there will be what the statesmen in Paris, in their bafflement and despair, have admonished us - nothing but an end for humanity.



To: Louis Gale, Cleveland Plain Dealer

J. Lustek, Cleveland Press

New Year
1948

October 2, 1948

Miss Margaret Baker
The Cleveland News
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Miss Baker:

I am enclosing herewith an abstract of Dr. Silver's sermon to be delivered tomorrow night on the occasion of our New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. Silver

er
Enc.

Via Special Delivery

1) R. H. means the beginning of the year. It is a holiday, one
of the most sacred in our calendar - celebrating 'beginnings'.
It ~~is~~ celebrates the beginning of creation. יום ראשון -
the beginning of the creation - it is a memorial, the First Day.
It was the day on which Adam - the first human being - was
created - It is a day when God permits man, having
repented of his sins, to make a new beginning.

2) Our rel. is concerned not with facts but with freedom,
not with Ends but with processes.

There is always a beginning as the possibility of a beginning
God Himself is represented as renewing His
creation every day the work of creation.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of the New Heaven and the New Earth
where God is renewing creation
And thrust on like there echoes the refrain that man should
acquire a new spirit - a new heart.

3) Man is especially privileged to ~~make~~ new beginnings.
When speaking of the creation of all other species & of the
universe - the Bible used the words and God said
~~and God said~~ - which imply a measure of freedom
as of an artist who completes a painting
or an artisan who finishes his handiwork.

7 man - the term 23rd is used - implying the setting
in motion of a process - man is incomplete,
~~and~~ not perfect but perfectible. In man's destiny there
are no ends - only beginnings -

And while man's creation was an act of God - man's
development, ~~his~~ growth and perfectibility ~~are~~ ^{are} in
the hands of man himself. God gave man the vision
of perfection, and the tools of will and freedom, with which
to fashion his ~~of~~ moral & intellectual life
according to the ^{divine} model, even in the darkest abyss
he will on his medicine - even as the marble was
said to be placed in the hands of Michelangelo.

4/ This fundamental doctrine of our faith is another
evidence of ~~its~~ ^{its} remarkable optimism. Ours is
a religion of undefeated hopefulness. There is always
another chance! Regardless of how black the record
how low the man has stooped, ~~there is~~ ^{there is} how late
his repentance, ~~there is~~ ^{there is} always the compassionate heart
God waiting for him and His arms / forgiveness - There
is always a door that can be opened from the prison house
of our sinfulness and debasement - and one but gives it -
the will of a ~~the~~ crack, God gives it ~~the~~ ^{at} the end of the world.

5/ But not only for sinners is there the possibility
though ~~to~~ ^{to} reach a new beginning - but

also for the good, the just and the righteous. For no man
or woman ever ~~attains~~ to ~~altogether~~ good, just and righteous.
~~There is~~ There is no man living who ~~knows~~ the will.
No one ever attains perfection. Those who ~~believe~~ themselves
perfect are by that very token sinful; for they are full
of vanity, pride and self-conceit. The saintliest
men know themselves ^{to be} sinful and unworthy when they con-
sider ^{exactly} the heights ~~where~~ ^{where} they should attain - and the
effort which they should exert to reach them. For all men
and women, the whole of life must be a forward advance,
unending and unceasing, ^{along these ascending terraces} ~~never~~ ^{step} in ^{progress}.
When you know yourself perfect - you have taken death.

6/ And so R. H. ~~summons~~ ^{us} ^{at} ^{the} ^{mark} ^{new} ^{beginning}.
No one is too old for some ^{important} ^{new} ^{undertaking},
some fine new enterprise which will release new
energies and will reward us with new zest in living.
At 80 -

1001 pmsol pml3 - 2012 11/11 3/8
~~gar pml3~~ - full of ^{sup} ^{renewal} -

7/ It is well to remember that all ~~beginnings~~ ^{are}
~~small~~; all ~~beginnings~~ are difficult; but that they
all ~~very~~ ^{are} important, and that

7/ Our world needs a new beginning. What we
see about us to day is the same old stagnation and
the same old corruption which have led mankind
in our day from one disaster to another.

either in Greece, or Palestine, in Cyprus, or the Far East. 16

But where will all this lead to? To another test, strength on the battle field? ~~What~~ or is there really the hope that one side or the other will back down? There are those who really don't want S. U. S. to back down. Every ~~man~~ ^{man} ^{in the} ^{army} Perhaps the best that mankind can hope for for a long time to come is a free armistice and very costly armed truce.

But is this the answer? Is this the best that man-kind can achieve? The best that honors sacrifice, the reveals, the deep-most secret, father, can find?

Should mankind not make a new beginning - a rather ~~convenient~~ ^{convenient} on that moral information ~~the paper~~ ^{the paper} which the establishment the U. N. was fed.

What has been wrong with our approach. A fundamental false conception has gained currency in modern times. Govt. is not subject to same moral laws which it expects its citizens to observe. Govt. or state is a law unto itself. It was Machiavelli who ~~first~~ defined this thesis which has been widely accepted in the West. That is our day. The rule of state is to be guided solely by consideration of expediency ^{power} and it is to his best interests to conserve a balance of power among his potential enemies. Only norms of state are to be his guides to actions. Further by further and right and the mandating of international peace are not to interfere with the higher law.

of a curvilinear in that the party S.O. - like the son
of a ~~few days~~ ^{week} ago - ~~to~~ ~~be~~ expressing his readiness to
open to a sharp retraction of an argument,
a ~~the one~~ a few days ago - ~~expressing~~ ^{expressing} ~~for~~ to an inter-
atomic energy conflict along with a ban on
the atomic bomb - is at race joined at the
deed as an "inventor manuscript". They prefer
a show-down!



interests of the state.

This by and large governs the future and action
of governments to-day - and they are not hesitant to
deliberate. But "Machins" ~~is not~~ less.

Machins is not the ~~former~~ exclusive province
of the Kremlin. They despise the ~~the~~ foreign policies
of nearly all the governments of the world to-day.
Compare the life service which is paid to the
freemason, the Charter of the U.N. by all the well known
with what is going on behind the scenes!

The one hope is a new beginning! or there will
be a sudden and final End! The people of the world
must be alerted to themselves of educated to do -
wonder, these ~~facts~~ ~~complaints~~ ~~with~~ ~~bring~~ ~~the~~ ~~al~~
~~public~~ ~~morality~~ ~~must~~ ~~enforce~~ ~~to~~ ~~private~~ ~~morality~~ ~~But~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~
~~principles~~. This is no moderate solution. This ~~is~~ ~~the~~
new! But it is the only way to start ~~the~~ march
on a new road away from ~~ambivalence~~.

It is a mistake, declared ~~that~~ ~~to~~ ~~that~~ ~~that~~
~~peace~~, ~~declared~~ ~~that~~, is a political problem:
It is a moral problem.

There are those who maintain that it cannot be
done. Facts will always be selfish, aggressive, un-
compromising, guided by no other consideration than power,
wealth and efficiency. There can be no new beginning.
No world ~~will~~ must remain power divided between
East and West, but communist dominated states & so
called democratic states. - Surprising but not common!

11/22/61, 12/13/61, 12/14/61, 12/15/61, 12/16/61, 12/17/61, 12/18/61, 12/19/61, 12/20/61, 12/21/61, 12/22/61, 12/23/61, 12/24/61, 12/25/61, 12/26/61, 12/27/61, 12/28/61, 12/29/61, 12/30/61, 12/31/61

In the (b-1) C. - it can taken for granted that ^A
Europe must be either wholly Catholic or wholly
Protestant.

In 18C - wholly democratic or whole absolutist

In 20C - wholly Communist - or Free Enterprise.

But mankind, ~~too~~ after great suffering & blood,
abandoned these opposite dogmas. In 16-17-18C

centuries.

It will have to abandon also the new dogmas of
the 30C. - preached by international communism
and international fronts

New beginnings are possible - they are mandatory!

9/. One, the most inspiring feature, the year ~~now~~
ending is the needed achievement of a new
new beginning for our people. During the year
the State of Israel was established. After ^{many} ~~2000~~ yrs.
of ~~slavery~~ ~~the nation was a~~ the State of Israel
has been reestablished and a glorious new chapter
begins for our people.

If any one looks for a verification of the
proverb that a new leaf is always possible, if the

will in their and faith persons - it be all find (9)
it in the historic proclamation / Nov. 24 and May 15.

Who would have thought that this long deferred hope,
dimmed then the centuries ~~desired for so long~~
repeated by the realist ~~desired~~ by the idealist
visited by powerful government, would suddenly
be gloriously realized. And that the people, the
State of I. would be able to defend their borders
against the attacks of the invading armies of six
neighboring states! (Quote). True - but for it find
existence!

Not built in a day! The ages build it.
2nd plan - ~~et~~ - North America - Proper Books - History
In all cases, dependence - Switzerland - selfish

And that faith has been renewed - The work is
ended!

(a) Many difficulties - It is, within beginning,
to be different - But that faith - united

10). May this faith inspire US - personal lives -
- as citizens / U.S. - and, united

1) R. H. means beginning. -

It is a Holiday - one of most sacred.

Begin. of "Creation" - בְּרִיאַת עוֹלָם -

Adam. -

God permits man - make a new Beg.

2) Our Bel - not with Fate - Freedom

not with Ends - Processes

God Himself - forever refreshing

עוֹלָם וָעוֹלָם

Isaiah - New Heaven & Earth - which God

Thruout Bible - echoes - a "New Spirit"

There is always a Beg. or the possibility of Beg.

3) Man especially privileged to make.

→ to - finality - completion

artist who finishes a painting
artisan .. " his handiwork.

- > 3) - לִוְזָה - setting in

motion a process

- Incomplete - imperfect but perfectable

In Man's Destiny - no ends only Beg. (2)
Man's Creation - an act of God - His
Growth - in his own hands.
God gave - Vision - Tools - I impose
his will - man's flexibility

4). This doctrine - evidence - Optimism
A Rel. of undefeated Hopefulness.
Always another chance - Repentance
compassionate heart, God - Cup.
Always a door - prison - creek.

5). Not only for Sinners - possibility +
Summons to new Rep. ways
God - just - Righteous. No man -
those who believe themselves - Vanity
pride - self-conceit.
Saintliness - then -
When you know yourself perfect -
you have tasted "death"

6). So R. H. Sumner - no one is too "Rel"

No one at any stage box used up / new papers (3)
2/22 / 12/11 376 - Free Jaff + Kiewis

"Finceler was the green pine
" kept as grow up"

7/ Our world certainly needs.

What we see - stagnation - corruption

What we hear - same old power politics

- same values - slogans - hypocrisy

- same mad race for armament

Not a new note! Not a single, decent

nothing but rearmament - old / rather

3 yrs after - debut - midst of

Cold War

our own country - draft - army

UN - upon which - armament -

sounding-board -

Paris & Berlin symbols.

Catering to Berlinis - Coal -

Else Koch

8/ Every one is concerned - innocent (4)
now - black, uneducated
Every one in fact -

9/ Where will all this lead to?
Another trial of strength? - back-down?
There are those who secretly hope -
any excesses - reduction - a true
"Oriental maneuver"

Perhaps the best that mankind can hope for -
precautions

But is this the final answer? Is
this the best - Horus Saferer.

Should mankind not make a new beginning
emancipate or moral reformation
no quick solution -

What has been wrong? A false
conception gained currency.

Govt. as not subject - a law
Machivelli - considerations of Expediency
- balance of power -

Only norms; state - ~~conspirator~~ ^{conspirator} further (5)
Right - no not to ~~un~~ interfere -

This pol. theory proven by change -

This "pol. realism" - not only Soviet.

Compare his series - charts
behind the scenes -

10/ Our only hope - a new start - or
final End -

Perh, the world must be alerted
Public morals must correspond to h. ones.

Judaism - פרשת אלהים נחמה ו' / 10

Prophets address are

To Rulers - Q1, 11, 12

"It is a mistake - demand Kant - to think
that there is a pol. problem. It is a task!"

11/ There are three: "It cannot be done"
Ghosts will always - appearing, unknown
East & West - forever divided -

are listened to their arguments. Improving (6)
but not convincing.

In 16-17c. - it was taken for granted
- wholly Catholic or wholly Prot.

In 18c - whole domain - absolutist.

In 20c - wholly communist - for Europe

But Marxism, after spilling much blood
abandoned their "inevitable" dogmas
made a new start -

It must also abandon - new dogma -
preached by fanatical Com-Soc. Forerunners

14. One, the most inspiring facts, year
recorded achievement of a marvellous
new beg. for our people -

During year - State Israel - ^{U.N. recognized} Jewish
new chapter

If any one seeks for a vindication
- new beg. is always possible

as long as will is there and Faith persists (7)

Mar. 29 - May 15

Who would have that - long defended
dimmed then the authors,
repeated by rabbits
deserted by escapees
ruined by powerful poets

Or that the small people - defend - 6

(Read) True - but for first sentence

Not built in a day! Agnes! 2nd place

unfounded - reluctant - Proph. Books

Holidays - In all lanes - our own

process - perish - Living or Dead!

They should it. They ended the X/2
not afraid to make new try.

13/ Many difficulties - But that same faith

14/ May that same faith in the U.S. - Personal
lives. Citizens, U.S. World

Israel. the Making of a State

BY I. D. W. TALMADGE

THE state of Israel, unlike Rome, was built in a day. Within twenty-four hours after the British pulled out, the Jews had a fully functioning state. They had a Cabinet and a Provisional Parliament. From nowhere they produced an army, an air force, and even a sizable naval fleet. Before the last Tommy had stepped aboard the last ship for England, an effective Jewish government was in operation—complete from Prime Minister down to sanitation inspector.

Overnight a new, prefabricated structure of administration was erected. Jewish personnel moved in and took over the offices and bureaus vacated by the British. Essential government services were hardly interrupted. Everything went off smoothly as planned. The schools opened as usual, the buses ran on time, the mail was delivered on schedule. The hospitals, the factories, the

telephone exchange—all continued to work as if nothing had happened.

Only, where the Union Jack flew the day before, the new standard of the Republic of Israel was unfurled. And the signs on the government buildings were repainted in Hebrew characters. A new seal bore the inscription "Medinat Isroel"—"State of Israel." By the next day the new-born state even had its own postage stamps.

Today, four months later, that hastily installed government is still functioning. It is, indisputably, the most stable regime in the Middle East. It has survived the armed attack of six sovereign states. The secret of its success is simple. The government of Israel is a democratic government receiving the unswerving support of the people.

There is amazingly little red tape and even less pomp and protocol. Members of the Cabinet work in their shirt sleeves, without ties. At first there was too much informality. People would drop in to have a *schmüss* with Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion or Foreign Min-

I. D. W. TALMADGE, foreign-affairs editor of *Schoolastic*, returned two weeks ago from a special trip to Israel for that magazine and for U. S. News.

cedures": they had left good jobs to take up government research only to be told within a few weeks or months that their clearances were temporary and had been revoked. Even without the figures put out by these groups, it is abundantly clear that the Un-American Activities Committee regards scientists as an especially suspect category.

In the field of civil liberties Washington today is witnessing a serious erosion of the trial right of accused persons and a marked change in long-accepted methods of determining subversiveness. Most defense attorneys who have presented cases before the Civil Service loyalty boards seem to believe that the board members themselves have not attempted to abuse or expand the ominous new principle of "guilt by association." The Civil Service boards consider the membership of an employee in a listed subversive organization as substantive but not *prima facie* evidence of disloyalty. The actual circumstances of his membership are taken into consideration. Defense attorneys have won numerous cases by establishing that the membership was of brief duration, that the accused was ignorant of the organization's real nature, or that he quit in protest against Communist infiltration.

But several of these lawyers have expressed concern over a far more stringent application of the "guilt by association" principle which was written into the act establishing the Economic Cooperation Administration. The

ECA act states flatly that the agency's security board must certify of each employee that he "is not now and never has been a member" of any listed organization. No matter what the circumstances may have been, the fact of membership stands as *prima facie* evidence of disloyalty.

A number of these lawyers have suggested that the government should appoint a general defense staff from whom accused employees might get immediate help through simple and well-defined procedures. At present, these lawyers say, many clerks and office workers who might easily furnish proofs of loyalty do not even make the effort. Overcome by fright and embarrassment when they get their first summons to a security hearing, they simply quit.

It has also been suggested by some of these lawyers that President Truman appoint a commission of outstanding legal authorities, including a number of Republicans from unimpeachably conservative backgrounds, to review the whole complex issue of loyalty and security. Such a commission—free from the stigma of partisan politics—might be able to bulwark the crumbling principles of civil liberty and give the public a rational picture of the actual scope of the Communist danger. The proponents of this idea point to the example of the British royal commissions which are created in times of crisis to study threatening and confused developments and report their findings to the public.

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Moshe Shertok

ister Moshe Shertok and suggest to them how to run the government. That had to be stopped. But even today a session of the Provisional Parliament resembles a meeting of the executive board of a trade union more than of a national legislative body.

Fourteen political parties, including the puny Communist Party, are represented in the Provisional Parliament, or State Council. The Communists have one representative among the thirty-seven members. As one legislator explained to me, "We can't give them less than one seat." It is not uncommon for the Prime Minister to be outvoted in

the Israeli Parliament. But as becomes a democratic leader of a democratic state, Ben-Gurion takes it graciously. Even in war time Israel is not a dictatorial state. Any suggestion of totalitarianism is repugnant to the Jewish masses. Accordingly, strikes were not outlawed despite the desperate struggle for national survival.

I talked with an official of the Ministry of Police. "The outgoing government can scarcely be said to have handed over to us any central police organization," he told me. But by the end of last month about 100 officers, 70 N. C. O.'s, and 1,300 men had been trained and posted. "The Israeli police is still at less than half strength," this official continued. "For example, the department cannot provide more than twelve men for night patrol in all of Tel Aviv. It is noteworthy, however, that crimes of violence in Israel are some 30 per cent lower than they were a year ago in the towns and 50 per cent lower in the rural areas."

The Israeli Ministry of Finance took over the financial functions of the state without any gap or hitch—an achievement which would have been astonishing even had there been sympathetic cooperation from the outgoing authority. As a result of careful preparation beforehand, income tax, customs, and excise duties were collected without interruption. Even in the first crowded days the Ministry initiated action in fields where the Mandatory Government had been in default. Immediately after the declaration of the Israeli state a national loan was launched for 5,000,000 Palestinian pounds. This loan has already been subscribed.

A special Ministry of Minorities was set up in the

Cabinet under the able leadership of Behor Shitreet. Its purpose is to defend the interests of the Arab and Christian minorities in Israel and to promote friendly relations among the three religious communities. One of its main principles is the encouragement of autonomous institutions among the Arabs. Arab schools have been reopened. An Arab newspaper is now published in Israel. Even during the fighting the Israeli government appointed Arabs to police Arab areas in Palestine.

IN THE new state of Israel synagogue and state are separate and will continue to be so under the proposed constitution. Saturday is the day of rest instead of Sunday—and that's about all that makes Tel Aviv any different from an American city. Synagogue attendance in Israel is about as good, or bad, as church attendance in America. Dietary laws are not universally observed. Some restaurants serve *kosher* meals, others don't. The story is told—it is probably apocryphal—that the Arabs, who are not permitted to eat pork, raise hogs to sell to their Jewish neighbors.

A draft constitution for the state of Israel is patterned on the American model and guarantees freedom of expression, worship, assembly, and association. The preamble to the proposed basic law of Israel asseverated that "the state shall insure the sanctity of human life and uphold the dignity of man." An interesting innovation in the projected constitution is a clause which provides that freedom of expression shall not be accorded to movements which advocate the suppression of the democratic form of government. Among provisions being considered for inclusion are guaranties for a national system of compulsory unemployment, old-age, and health insurance; equal pay for men and women; prohibition of child labor; and minimum hours of employment for women in industry.

Israel is the most eastern of the Western democracies. Its destiny is in the hands of a party (the Mapai) which is the very counterpart of the British Labor Party. Both are affiliated with the Second International. They have the same basic ideology. Reshuffle Morrison, Attlee, Shertok, Ben-Gurion, and you could not say where each belonged. (Bevin, to be sure, is a case by himself: his anti-Jewish bias can be explained only in psychiatric terms.) On all issues save Palestine the Labor parties of Palestine and Britain see eye to eye. And ironically enough, the difference of opinion on Palestine developed only when the British party came to power. The people of Israel are more bitter against the British Labor Party than against Britain itself. They were let down by their own brothers, so to speak. In all its election campaigns British Labor had championed the cause of a Jewish state in Palestine. One Israeli government official said to me dourly, "It would have been better for us if Winston Churchill had remained in power. Then we could have