



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 V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

Reel
183

Box
68

Folder
788

An afternoon with the Psalms, 1950.

1) Most popular - Prayer Book - Jews & Christians - All occasions - "private devotion - most beloved -

2) Name - "Psalm" - "psalmos" - to play instrument - unaccompanied -
"To sing to musical accompaniment."

These hymns ^{in the main} were sung - to musical accompaniment - in the Temple -
on week-days - Sabbath - festivals - by the Levites - chorus - orchestra
~~Musicians~~ - "The Hymnal, the Temple" - Bible chanting - Prayer - 153 Hymns - instrument - connected - verses

Highly developed art in ancient Israel - 100 passages in Bible

Instruments - at least 20 - Trumpet (7/11), horn (1/17)
{ Reed instruments (6/17), bagpipe (2/18), Harp (1/15);
10-stringed harp; lyre (7/11), percussion instruments
gongs, drums, tambourines; flute, small organ
dulcimer and a psalter. Others unidentified

Bible chanting - Prayer chanting - / 57.

3) Hebrew name - psalm 150 - "Book of Praises" - 7 volumes - 153

4) Number - 150 divided, like Bible, into 5 books, each
ends with 3/112 - 1/111 / 1/11 - doxology

5) Author - "Psalm, David". Tradition - 73 have superscriptions

3131 - 1100 about 1500 - Saul - David before Ark -
org. Levites. May have orig. the new style lyrical
poetry in ancient Israel - they have composed -

3131 not by David, about David.

Psalms, Eccl. ascribe songs to one to Moses (90)
two to Solomon, 12 to Asaph & to others.

6). Was up 9 several collections - distinction groups -
e.g. "Songs of Ascent" - 15; "Hallel Psalms" (111-118) by with
וְיִלְלֵהוּ -; Korahite Psalms (42-49; 84-88) וְיִלְלֵהוּ N21
either composed or chanterd by them, They were among
chorists in the Temple

7). Date - From entrance into Canaan ^{Torah - Judges} 1200 B.C. - to post-exile
300 B.C. -

8). Psalms - ^{why are a} no regular ^{why there based on accounts. The} theme ^{length 70 vers based on} in weeks, Blank Verse - ^{even 7000 years}
"parallelism" - each verse falls into 2 halves,
similar in that, contrasting or supplementary
The singing was evidently in antiphonal method
one party chanterd or answ., the other responded
(Intro Ps. 2) - a few alphabetical acrostics

9). Subject Matter 3 fold - לְהַדְרִית אֱלֹהִים - כְּבוֹד וְהַדְרָה
① recall great hist. events - Egypt - Conquest ^{way} Captivity
② Worship - all words - Creator ^{Reformation} Savior - Joy
③ Praise - לְהַדְרִית - for his wonderful deeds - Suffering

Ps. 121 - on the Songs of Ascent לְהַדְרִית אֱלֹהִים
- 15 steps - Levites stood with their musical
instruments and sang these songs - Psalm -

Ps. 19 - cosmological - 2 parts - majesty, Nature - Moral Law
וְיִלְלֵהוּ - instrument וְיִלְלֵהוּ - sp. present וְיִלְלֵהוּ - meaning
וְיִלְלֵהוּ - regulation וְיִלְלֵהוּ - gen. term for law - with his angels

Ps. 118 + Shon - Nat. Thanksgiving - Perhaps on x100 (3)
Ps. inspired by the approver of Samuel's Wales - 444 BCE Frustration of Alexander the Great (1729)

Ps. 46 - "The grandest song, Farth ever written with pen"
- God as the Nations Stronghold! - Davey & Devereaux

- Invasion by Assyria Sennacherib - in reign, Hegeliah

① God as father (2) God as a placid river in united
peace - fertility

Ps. 126 + (Shon) . Exile = just returned!
joy - but hard - rebuilding - as to-day.

- still hope for renewed success

- "wadi" - in summer these wadis are dry - &
entire region is a barren waste - Rainy season
full overflowing - country becomes a "green oasis"

Ps. 84 - "Joy in the Sanctuary" - joy of coming to Temple
to worship - common worship

Ps. 137 + Shon - Desolation - Humiliation - Unbroken
Unbroken Loyalty

Ps. 23 + (Josh) : God as shepherd - shepherd
- shepherd personal tender care - watchfulness
② Images ① Shepherd ② Host Obligation to
express safety his guests
hospitality Compassion

Quotation of Henry Ward Beecher in "Life Thoughts" on Psalm XXXIII:

The twenty-third Psalm is the nightingale of the Psalms. It is small, of a homely feather, singing shyly out of obscurity; but oh! it has filled the air of the whole world with melodious joy, greater than the heard can conceive. Blessed be the day on which that Psalm was born! What would you say of a pilgrim commissioned of God to travel up and down the earth singing a strange melody, which when one heard, caused him to forget whatever sorrow he had? (And so the singing angel goes on his way through all lands, singing in the language of every nation, driving away trouble by the pulses of the air which his tongue moves with divine power. Behold just such an one!) This pilgrim God has sent to speak in every language on the globe. It has charmed more griefs to rest than all the philosophy of the world.... Nor is its work done. It will go singing to your children and my children, and to their children, through all the generations of time.

Prothero on the Psalms:

To weary travellers of every condition and every period of history, the Psalms have been rivers of refreshment and wells of consolation. They alone have known no limitations to a particular age, country, or form of faith.

WRHS

