



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series VIII: Scrapbooks, 1902-1964, undated.

Sub-series A: Clippings Scrapbooks, 1902-1964, undated.

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Reel  
232

Box  
114

Folder  
71

Life Magazine, 1953 April.

# LIFE

## STALIN'S GHASTLY SECRETS

HOW HE WON AND HELD ABSOLUTE POWER  
BY AN EX-GENERAL OF DREADED N. K. V. D.

ALSO—12 GREAT AMERICAN PREACHERS

V'S FIRST FAMILY  
MILLE BALL, DESI ARNAZ  
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20 CENTS

APRIL 6, 1953



DR. RALPH WASHINGTON SOCKMAN

*Methodist*

For 36 years Dr. Sockman has been pastor of Christ Church on New York's Park Avenue and for 25 years he has preached on Sundays on the *National Radio Pulpit*, which has two and a half million listeners and is radio's oldest "hour." Three times Sockman has turned down a bishopric because he prefers preaching. The 63-year-old minister keeps his sermons as neat as he keeps his own appearance, talks in a personal way which inspires his listeners to send him 5,000 letters a week.



DR. HOWARD THURMAN

*Baptist*

Dr. Thurman, 54, pressed pants to get through school. In 1944 he became pastor in San Francisco of the Fellowship Church which, composed of whites, Negroes and Orientals, was an experiment in "total Christianity." Under Dr. Thurman the "experiment" has been successful. He preaches to, not at, his audience, giving ideas to wrestle with, thoughts to meditate upon. This month he accepted Boston University's offer to become university preacher and professor in the School of Theology.



RABBI ABBA

*Jewish*

Dr. Silver, who stands here beside a replica of Michelangelo's *Moses* in the Temple in Cleveland, has the imposing look of an ancient Jewish leader. Tall and dark, he has a massive head and a shock of black, graying hair. When he preaches, his words come out in organ tones. Born in Lithuania, Dr. Silver represents the fifth generation of rabbis in his family. Recalling that Moses, because he was "slow of speech," had to have his brother Aaron talk for him, Dr. Silver feels that the modern rabbi



HILLEL SILVER

*Reformed*

still needs to speak for Moses. "I have always looked on religion as a quest for social justice and a quest for God. The one found greatest expression among the prophets, the other among the mystics. In preaching I try to synthesize the two." An ardent Zionist, Dr. Silver organized support to get resolutions favoring the new state of Israel through both the U.S. Congress and the U.N. Assembly. More recently he made a deep impression by the moving prayer he offered at the Eisenhower inauguration.



DR. NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

*Reformed Church in America*

"Americans are so tense that it is impossible to put them to sleep with a sermon," says Dr. Peale, 54-year-old pastor of the Marble Collegiate Church in New York. To help them relax Dr. Peale goes strongly for popular psychology in his sermons, talking in a chatty style. His church has six psychiatrists available to people with problems. His radio talks have one and a half million listeners, his TV programs two million viewers and his new book, *The Power of Positive Thinking*, has sold 200,000 copies.



DR. GEORGE ARTHUR BUTTRICK

*Presbyterian*

Dr. Buttrick, who was born in England 61 years ago, is senior minister of New York's Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. In the pulpit he impresses by his warmth, sense of humility and deep, searching intelligence. He has often tangled with fundamentalists over his refusal to accept a too literal interpretation of the Bible. But he is one of the most scholarly of Protestant ministers and is editor-in-chief of the *Interpreter's Bible* on which 150 other Biblical experts are also working.