



## Daniel Jeremy Silver Collection Digitization Project

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### **MS-4850: Daniel Jeremy Silver Papers, 1972-1993.**

Series III: The Temple Tifereth-Israel, 1946-1993, undated.

Sub-series B: Sermons, 1950-1989, undated.

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O Sing Unto the Lord a New Song: Israel's Tenth Anniversary,  
1958.



"O SING UNTO THE LORD A NEW SONG"

THE TEMPLE

April 27, 1958

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver

It seems only yesterday. It was a hot, sultry, mid-May evening ten years ago. I remember walking tensely through the mid-town streets of New York, never getting too far away from that electric tele-type board which is displayed on the New York Times Building. We were waiting impatiently for news of the proclamation of the Jewish State. Six months previously, in November of 1947, the United Nations General Assembly had voted that the old British Mandate of Palestine was to be partitioned between Arab and Jew. The British had signalized and signified their intentions to give up this mandate. The world body had thought it fit and proper to divide the territory between those two peoples who claimed ancient loyalties and rights to the land. May 14th of 1948 was declared to be the day on which the last of the British officialdom and police and army would be relieved of their duties in Palestine, May 15th as the date for the establishment of the provisional Jewish government of the new State of Israel. Since that day six months previously the Arab high command had time and again flaunted the will of the United Nations. Their bands of so-called irregular troops had systematically at night pillaged and plundered the Jewish settlements. The leaders of the Arab league voiced by the famous Palestine Mufti, white bearded and determined, had announced that they had no intentions of abiding by the will of the world body, indeed if the Jews had the temerity to establish their sovereignty over this land voted them by the world body they would proclaim a yihad, a holy war, a war of extermination against the Jewish settlers, and the Jewish people, man, woman and child, would in a blood bath be driven into the sea. November<sup>of</sup> 1947 - May of 1948 - these were anxious months for the Jewish people. In the evening of May 14th, Israel reached one of its most



fateful moments of decision. This was the hour of no return. Israel must be, or not be. Israel will accept the threat of the foeman's steel, or bow before the threat of the foeman's wrath.

I had been working for a half year then for the Jewish Agency for Palestine. Our leaders had been trying in every way possible to arrange matters without open war. They had hoped that diplomatic overtures might secure protective treaties from the great world powers which would guarantee the sanctity and the safety of the Jewish state. But we knew on the evening of May 14th that these overtures had been frustrated, that in this way there was no hope. Israel would have to walk into its tomorrow alone, unaided. We had spent a great deal of effort and of time and of money trying to provide Israel with the wherewithal to meet the threat. After all, a people needs more than bare fists and brave hearts to meet and fight against modern arms. Much had been sent. Much more was on the way. But we did not know whether it was sufficient. We did not know whether Israel physically could brave the Arab wrath. The evening of that Thursday night in New York was dawn in Tel Aviv. The dawn of a new era for Israel or the dawn of just another day of frustration and tragedy in the age-long Jewish drama. So much had to be weighed in the balance. Could six hundred and fifty thousand souls, man, woman and child, brave the wrath of fifty million souls and seven sovereign states? Could a people without organization, without an army, without any organized police force, dare to meet in open combat the organized professional troops of seven powerful neighbors? Psychologically could these six hundred and fifty thousand people who had suffered so severely in Europe under Hitler, would they again be willing, and could they emotionally put their fate in the balance, their hard-won security on the line, dare to fight again for freedom, hope, and a new life?

As I walked the streets of New York that night, a scene from our Bible kept passing again and again before the mirror of my mind. I saw the desert-weary hosts of the children of Israel assembled before Mt. Nebo. Tired from the long journey, Moses, white-haired, broken with care and with age, standing on the mountain-side



slightly above them. To the West shimmered the last rays of sun on the Jordan River, and to the west of that lay the Promised Land. Moses had brought his people to this point. He could lead them no further. This was the end of the way for him. He was speaking now words of valedictory to his people, and he chose his words carefully.

"Be strong. Be of good courage. Be not affrighted by them. The Lord, thy God, He it is that goeth with thee. He will not fail thee. He will not forsake thee."

And I remember praying that night that in Israel that morning people were listening in their hearts to this ~~ancient~~ ancient promise and this ancient prophecy. And then I remember the news being flashed on this electrified ticker tape: "The provisional government of the State of Israel announces the establishment of its sovereignty over Medinot Yisroel, the Jewish community state of Palestine."

I have often looked back on this evening. I have often felt that it was fraught with a significance which transcended the hour and which affected the whole destiny of our Jewish people. It is I firmly believe that on this night in May of 1948 our Jewish people began its future. We are a people of an ancient and time-honored past. Our history is among the most venerable and honored known to man. We were born in faith and we have always been faithful to the great ideals of liberty, democracy, equality, justice and human dignity which the priests and the prophets of Israel thundered forth to their people centuries and milleniums ago. We have given to the world much more of culture, of humane discipline than we have taken from it. We have given to the world far beyond our numbers. Our past is one of which we can be proud.

But in recent years our present has been sorely troubled. In recent years the steel of the enemy has been driven time and again into the quick flesh of our body, we have been hurt to the most inner core. ~~Russia~~ Our body has become old. Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Hungary, North Africa, Yemen, Free Israel Palestine, words, events so easy to recall, so bitter to endure. Our whole body <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ sick. Our spirits were despondent and desperate. Had we as the Jewish people come to



the last hour of our destiny? Was the postlude actually being written to the symphony that is Israel?

What did the establishment of this State ten years ago mean to us? It meant to us a national home where our own people according to the dictates of their conscience could create and evolve and forge organizations and institutions in consonance with the most ancient and venerated ideals of our people. It meant the establishment of a national sanctuary where the dispossessed and the displaced among our people could find refuge and a new home and a new life and a new hope. And where those displaced persons of the world whom the whole wide world could find no home, no place of refuge would be always welcome, could come and could be sustained. It meant a new vision - a vision of a land developed by our own talents and by our own energy, by our sweat and by our tears, by free people and new ideas on ancient soil and venerated faith. But above all - above all, the night of May 14th ten years ago meant that our people had found again its ageless youth - that confidence, that faith which recent times had sapped from us again clothed us in majesty and in glory. Again we were a people with a future. Again we were conscious of our national mission and of our national worth. Again as a people we were walking the royal highway of our ancient and timeless destiny.

Ten years have accomplished much - ten years since 1948. In those ten years - that brief decade - the new state of Israel has ingathered over one million souls. Men and women and children suffering under the lash of oppressors and of tyrants. They have found new shelter, new homes, new jobs, new skills for these people. They have cared for them educationally and medically. They have made them feel citizens of a world in which it was truly worth the living. It is hard to imagine the magnitude of this achievement. If America, our own beloved land, were to ingest and take in every year for the next decade ten millions of people, find for them a new way of life, welcome them, make them feel at home, give them productive skills, and ingest them into our economy - then alone might we understand the magnitude of the accomplishment which is Israel's. In the last ten years Israel



has doubled its arable cultivable land - again an achievement which beggars description. It would mean in comparable terms that America would have to make verdant the whole of our south-western dust bowl and that we would have to clear the New England countryside from every rock and every rill which disturbs it and prevents cultivation. In ten years production has tripled. Educational facilities have been quadrupled. Medical facilities have grown six-fold. Any one of these accomplishments would permit us to say at this hour that the achievements of the state of Israel were herculean. All of these accomplishments in compos - taken together - can only be called miraculous. Proof again if proof be needed that faith can move mountains. Proof again if proof be needed that where there is courage and where there is grit the implausible becomes ordinary, the impossible becomes commonplace.

I have indicated to you my belief that the establishment of the state of Israel ten years ago gave a future to our people. I firmly believe that had it not been for the establishment of that state, even that modern Judaism which we have been able to create and to fashion here in America would have been in time worn down by the dispiritedness and a despair which would have seeped here from the communities of Europe and of Palestine where there would have been no hope and no future. We could not have achieved that rejuvenescence of faith which has been a feature in the last two or three decades of American Jewish life had Israel not been for us symbolic, a signal that we as a people were clothed again in purpose, in meaning and in hope, a visible symbol as the Bible says, of "the presence of God in the midst of the people". That is why at this hour we sing unto the Lord a new song - a song of faith, a song of assurance, our assurance that Israel has a tomorrow and will walk into that tomorrow confidently, with purpose, to teach the way that is God's way by precept and example to our world. Oh, there will be many obstacles. The Enemies are ever present. We shall have no illusions on that respect. But there is now assurance deep in our hearts that we are strong enough,



that we are vital enough, that we are self sufficient, that we with God's help will create that future of peace, prosperity and justice which is our dream. And the day will surely come when

"The young lion and the young lamb shall lie down together

And a young child shall lead them

And they shall no more hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain

For such is the will of God, such will be the way of man."

Amen.





## PRAYER FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Our Father in Heaven, Rock and Redeemer of Israel, bless the State of Israel, the inaugural flowering of our redemption. Protect her with Thy love. Spread over her the tabernacle of Thy peace, and bestow of Thy light and Thy truth upon her leaders, governors and counselors, and endow them with Thy divine counsel.

O God, strengthen the hands of the defenders of Israel and lead them to triumphant victory. Grant peace to Thy Holy land and tranquility to her inhabitants.

We beseech Thee, O God, remember our brethren, the whole household of Israel in all the lands of their dispersion. Speedily restore them in dignity to Zion, Thy city, and to Jerusalem, the abode of Thy name, as it is written in Thy Holy Torah: "If any of thine that are dispersed be in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there will the Lord thy God gather thee, and from there will He fetch thee. And the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it: and He will make thee more prosperous and numerous than thy fathers. And the Lord thy God will circumcise thy heart, and the heart of thy offspring, to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live."

Unite our hearts to love Thee, to revere Thy name, and to observe the precepts of Thy Torah.

"Shine forth in the majesty of Thy power over all the inhabitants of Thy world, that all with life's breath in their nostrils may proclaim: 'The Lord God of Israel is King and His dominion ruleth over all.'"

(Jewish Agency Torah Department, New York)

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Our God and God of our fathers, our voices rise in humble gratitude unto Thee for the miracle of the rebirth of Israel which Thou hast wrought in our own days. Gladness fills our souls as our brothers in ever mounting numbers come to their ancestral home from the lands of oppression.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for the great mercy Thou hast shown them. May they find upon the sacred soil of their homeland healing of the wounds of their bodies and balm for the anguish of their souls.

Grant, O Lord, that this new Israel will dedicate itself to Thy Torah and fashion a community which will become the pattern for all mankind. Make it steadfast in the faith that "out of Zion shall go forth the Law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Prosper Zion! Grant it health and strength, courage and wisdom, and reverence for Thee -- that Thy Kingdom may be established speedily.

In celebrating the rebirth of Israel we pray, O Lord, that the whole house of Israel will unite to do Thy will. And, as we seek Thy favor for the welfare of the new State, so we invoke Thy blessings upon our country and upon all mankind. Hasten the day when the vision of Thy prophets will be realized: The Lord shall be One and His name shall be One in a world of Universal justice, peace and brotherhood. Amen.

(Union of American Hebrew Congregations)



Suggested Text of

PROCLAMATION FOR ISRAEL'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

WHEREAS, the State of Israel will celebrate its tenth anniversary year beginning April 24, 1958; and

WHEREAS, the young and flourishing State is completing a decade of inspiring progress as a democracy dedicated to the same ideals on which our own country was founded; and

WHEREAS, Israel has remained a steadfast bastion of the free world in a troubled and turbulent area and has shown constant proof of friendship and community of interest with the United States; and

WHEREAS, it continues to fulfill its great and historic role of providing purposeful work, secure homes, and abiding hope to hundreds of thousands of refugees from persecution and intolerance; and

WHEREAS, Israel has made giant strides forward in agriculture and industry, with acknowledged and welcome help from the United States, redeeming the desert, building new cities, and expanding the horizons of its growing population; and

WHEREAS, it has kept equal pace in the arts and sciences, making a notable contribution to humanity and civilization in these fields, and

WHEREAS, Israel stands as a noble expression of the high purposes and ideals of the Zionist Organization, which brought it into being; and

WHEREAS, it is a symbol of peace and brotherhood and an exemplar of self-help to the backward nations of the earth,

NOW, THEREFORE, I  
do hereby proclaim the period from April to , 1958, as Israel's  
Tenth Anniversary (month) (week) (period) in honor of the nascent nation of  
Israel, and I bid all our citizens join joyfully in its celebration in harmony  
and brotherhood.

(Governor of the State of  
(Mayor of the City of



1) It seems built yesterday. It was ten years ago - somewhere past mid-night on a hot mid-summer evening. New York's street were almost deserted. I was walking past the Times Square area trying always to keep the electric <sup>neighboring</sup> ~~light~~ signs on the Times Bldg in sight.

5 months before the General Assembly of the United Nations had adopted a Partition Proposal for <sup>Palestine</sup> ~~the~~. England had governed ~~and~~ over a mandate granted her by the old League of Nations. She had decided to give up the rule. The United Nations had voted to divide the territory between an Arab and a Jewish state. May 14, 1948 was to be the last day of British rule - on that day the evacuation of her troops and official rule completed.

This was the evening of May 14. 2 weeks of meetings done in an hour  
as one of Israel's most <sup>important</sup> ~~critical~~ <sup>hours</sup> of decision. This was the point of  
no return. Since that November decision the Arab High Command had openly  
flouted the will of the United Nations. Their government threatened that no  
such Jewish State would ever be allowed to be born. Arab irregulars  
had been systematically killing & plundering Palestine settlements. Leaders of the  
Arab League, headed by the unbridled barbarian & thug named ~~as~~  
Ajlul, who were would be proceeded if ~~any~~ <sup>the Jewish</sup> ~~settlements~~ <sup>settlements</sup> in Palestine  
accepted the sovereignty the United Nations had voted them. It would be  
a war of extermination - a blood bath - The 650,000 Jewish settlements would  
be driven from their homes into the sea

I had been working since that November for the present Agency. Its leaders were particularly searching for <sup>the</sup> means of avoiding open war - Perhaps some large world power might show so pre-emptive a move of its authority over the new state. The search had proven fruitless. Israel would have to settle its long alone. They alone had the decision to have the government set on foot before the Jewish State.

We had worked hard to prepare Daniel for the uncertainties of a  
perilous journey. The ~~man~~ <sup>needle</sup> to be equipped with arms, now substituted  
been bare fists and bare hands. Much had been ~~thought~~ <sup>felt</sup>. more was  
on the way. Was it enough? At least we were not sure.

It was night in New York. Early dawn in Tel Aviv. Dawn on the first day of a new era or on just another day of pain & frustration. <sup>It had to be</sup> This must be weighed. Could 600,000 Gullies 50 million? Could we smell











and our national mission.

2) It is now ten years since that fateful hour. We can be proud of the  
accomplishment of our decade. Israel proved itself equal in stature,  
perseverance, vigils, and self-sacrifice to any nation building. In this  
decade 1 million new immigrants have been welcomed, <sup>rehabilitated,</sup> settled, educated,  
and given hope <sup>and a future</sup> for tomorrow. The magnitude of our achievement  
does defies belief. While America welcomed 10, million new immigrants  
each year for the next decade and care for them - <sup>settles them</sup> - provides them  
jobs. Then we should understand the struggle and the achievement that  
has been done. In a decade <sup>Israel's</sup> wilderness has been tamed - swamps  
have been drained, rocky hills and elevated desert irrigated, cities -  
magnitude of this accomplishment is beyond belief. America would have  
to make ready its hand and shoulder and share the same effort and courage of  
its every rule and rule for us to achieve comparably. In the same period  
production has been tripled, industrial capacity increased 7 fold, the  
<sup>facilities</sup> <sup>modern facilities</sup> <sup>up to</sup> <sup>6 fold</sup> <sup>modern</sup> <sup>professional and cultural</sup>  
shall <sup>4 fold</sup>. The highest <sup>modern</sup> <sup>professional and cultural</sup>  
of order have been maintained. Were any one of these achievements to have  
been accomplished <sup>only</sup> we would be indebted to Prime Minister's efforts  
Merkel - that they have all been achieved makes them unbelievable -  
proof - if need be needed - did faith and grit can move mountains  
and make the improbable commonplace and the impossible reality

~~3) It is now ten years since that fateful hour. We can be proud of our  
achievement. There is all we could hope for a people  
responded so generously to the needs of friend and neighbor. There was  
this stepped beyond. There is a debt. Their perseverance  
and our generosity. Their achievement does exceed, to our  
honor.~~

5) I have indicated my belief that had Israel not been born - <sup>it would not have been otherwise</sup>  
faster would have engulfed even the <sup>head & neck</sup> <sup>major</sup> <sup>judgment</sup> of America - When  
it is now affirmative and joyful - I believe continuing, frustration  
in Europe & Palestine would have nullified his <sup>hopes</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>goals</sup>  
The recollection of interest - the intensity of our religious life is a tribute



not only the uncertainties of our faith first principle & then attendance  
of it no less sure - but also to the symbol of hope & faith which symbol  
has supplied - a visible symbol of the presence of God in the midst of the  
people.

~~We have been looking at the symbol of hope & faith which symbol~~  
We are today in a new way under the Lord - one full of victory - indeed  
victorious - one of hope and confidence. The road may be long. The obstacles  
may be many. The enemies are present. <sup>With time and discipline we will</sup> But we will make no appearance. <sup>Shameless and the way of the righteous</sup> Daniel  
is still in the world. The vision is real and true. The can be proven.  
Bright eyes and straightened are for tomorrow placed forward to the  
goal by which they the world over will walk with a new purpose  
~~and~~ for that day of glory.

"The world shall walk with the Lord  
and the Lord shall be with the world  
and the world shall be with the Lord  
and the world shall be with the Lord"



Kaddish

AUGUSTA F. BELL  
SOPHIE KESSING OBERSTADT  
BERTHA KOTIN  
HAN B. BLANK

Quartzite

PAULINA ADLERSON  
IDA ROSENTHAL  
JOHN ANSTADT  
RUTH M. GORDY  
JOSEPH ALBERTSON  
HENRY A. ELMAN  
ELSON ROSENTHAL  
WILLIAM ANSTADT  
WILLIAM A. ELMAN  
JOHN F. GORDY  
JOHN F. GORDY  
JOHN F. GORDY

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JOHN F. GORDY  
JOHN F. GORDY  
JOHN F. GORDY



# Kaddish

Friday

APR. 25, 1958

Sunday

" 27, 1958

Those who passed away this week

AUGUSTA F. BERLAND

SOPHIE WAHRHAFTIG

SOPHIE MESSING GRUNDSTEIN

BERTHA ROSIN

FAN B. ULMER

## Yahrzeits

PAULINA ADELSON

IDA ROSENTHAL

JOHN ANISFIELD

RUTH M. COHEN

GORDON A. HERSTAM

MONROE A. ULLMAN

JACOB KRONHEIM

EMIL H. GOTTFRIED

MAX S. FRIED

JENNIE M. LITTMAN

LOUIS S. BING

CHARLES ALLEN HUEBSCHMAN

JACOB T. SCHULIST

ARTHUR EINSTEIN

CHARLES GINSBERG

SIDNEY S. WEISKOPF

SEYMOUR GEOFFREY BRENNAN JR.

LOUIS M. SCHER

ZELDA STILLMAN