



Daniel Jeremy Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

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

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

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

Reel
49

Box
15

Folder
869

Judaism and Jews in 1984, 1967.

Judaism, The Jewish People and 1984
(High School Graduation)
Daniel Jeremy Silver
May 7, 1967

In 1984 you will be about thirty-five years of age and at the height of your physical and professional powers. What will your life be like? Unfortunately, history does not permit clear prediction. The future undoubtedly will be a blend of the expected and of the unexpected, even as each of us is a blend of habit and of creativity. About the only prediction of which I am confident is that the next seventeen years will be not only challenging but portentous and will determine the course of history for many generations. The decisions we make now will echo and reverberate down the corridors of time and these next years are going to make staggering demands upon our intelligence and upon our courage.

A new world is being born. The embryo is alive and kicking so hard that the body politic hurts. The question is: Will a child of the future be stillborn? Or come to us hale and whole? The issue is not resolved. The arms race and hot-cold war, the turmoil in our cities, the staggering problems of population and poverty may be the birth pains of the new age or its death rattle. The future is uncertain. Our machines, our technology, our medicine and our research spell opportunity. The open question is whether we have the political and spiritual skills with which to sculpt our opportunity so that it permits freedom and justice and happiness, or whether our technology will weave an iron mesh of new invention and the convulsive change which will ensnare us and finally drown us in runaway change.

In 1984 you will be at the height of your maturity. 1984, as you know, is the year which plays a central role in one of the classic and pathetic novels of our

time, George Orwell's story by the same name. Interestingly, Orwell's story was published in the year of your birth, when it became almost overnight something of a cultural sensation. For Orwell wrote down the black thoughts many thinking people had been whispering to themselves into the quiet of the night. By then many had decided that the vision splendid which had been promised in countless schoolrooms and by our parents might be an illusion. True, we could produce a flock of consumer goods, but would we produce a good and agreeable life. During the first half of this century men dreamed flawless dreams. We felt that the millenium, Utopia, was just around the corner. Man's incredible mind had been so inventive that it had unlocked the secrets of nature, and now armed with new power and new controls men would quickly bring under control the ancient scourges of poverty and disease. Then came Hitler and the second World War, Dachau, Auschwitz, Lidice, Hiroshima. Thoughtful men began to wonder aloud if indeed man was capable of taking advantage of the power which was being placed in his hand. The simple saw one equation: research plus power - progress. The skeptical saw another equation: Given the greed of men, research plus power - unspeakable horror.

1984 in Orwell's mind became a time of horror, ghastly nightmare place, a dilapidated, bare, drab, unsmiling. Man was not only controlled by the state but in every aspect of his being, brainwashed by the state and denied even relief of having one's own thoughts.

Which will the world be like when you are thirty-five in 1984? A wonderful, happy world or a bitter, despairing world? The answer is not clear. Only one truth is certain. The future will be what we make it. Many of Orwell's most dire predictions have not come true. He foresaw an atomic holocaust during the 1950's and there was none. Yet, much that he said has come true. The world has

been pretty constantly at war; Big brother rules in China which controls 750 millions of people. Freedom is slavery, ignorance is wisdom, peace is war.

There has been much that we call progress, but since you were born the world has added 300 million people to its role of illiterates. There has been much progress but tonight one in two will go to bed hungry. There has been much talk of peace, but each of us will go to bed tonight wondering when the war will explode beyond its present borders.

Do not be lulled by the comfortable suburbia in which you are raised into believing that such is the world. Do not be gulled by the statistics on life expectancy. There is no assurance that any of us will reach 1984. The world has yet to show that it has the determination, the courage, the intelligence and the discipline to take advantage of the opportunity which it has and to use it wisely and constructively for the blessing of all and the hurt of none.

1984 - dream or nightmare? One thing is certain. You cannot live the next seventeen years within the narrow framework of some of your narrow interests; at school and building of a family. You must live for causes beyond yourself. You must listen to four basic truths which this ancient faith of yours places before as the foundation pillars of an organized and successful world.

The first truth which Judaism teaches and will continue to teach is the simple proposition that the future is not predetermined. We are not puppets nor automatons. There are no gods in the heavens who write history's scenario. 1984 will be what we make of it, nothing more and nothing less. "The heavens belong to God, the earth belongs to the children of men." I look about. I find that many have

signed out. I see white-shirted well dressed men and women who have simply resigned from life. They go about their business, earn their living, raise children, but they won't dirty their hands. They want no part of politics, of the pushing and hauling, of building as the underprivileged struggle against special privilege. They throw up their hands and say there is nothing which we can do. These adult deserters are joined by another legion - long-haired, unkempt, unshaven, more youthful, those who feel too sensitive to face the hard knocks so they call themselves prisoners of a life they did not make and give up before they have tried. They turn within, trip into the depths of their own personality with drugs or love as some other philosophy and these young people, like their more conventional and elderly counterparts, are simply deserters. Our world, as it teeters on the brink of catastrophe, cannot afford desertees. Those with skills and with youth must shoulder the burden. It is a heavy burden. It will break many of us, but it must be taken up.

The second truth which our tradition has taught and teaches is the simple proposition that the future must be one of greater justice and opportunity for all. God has no special place for you or for me. There are no favored classes and no less degrees without the law. Our blueprint cannot be for a society of the privileged, but a society of mass opportunity. This implies that some luxuries will be taken from us, some of the fat on which we live. With half the world near starvation it surely is incongruous that so many live so carelessly. The ancient prophetic vision is a hard vision. We must make war against all those who would keep the ancient privileges, the arrogancies of class and caste and wealth and deny these to others. The legion of deserters is not as large as the legion of the privileged who fight to hold back the arrival of those who are new on the scene. It will not

be easy. In the last months Brazil, Argentina, Greece, Southeast Asia, among other nations turned its back on reform and change. As some of you well know there are dialogues in our own land to the left and to the right which plan to turn back the clock or to arrogate all power and privilege unto themselves.

The second great truth which Judaism imposes upon you is that your vision must be one which embraces all other men and asks not so much what the world can do for me but what can I do for the healing, the betterment and blessing of mankind?

The third truth is to respect difference. "Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us all?" Judaism has never claimed to be the whole truth or to have in its pocket the keys to the kingdom. Still our world is filled with idealogues, missionaries of economic political religious ideologies who insist that what is right for me is right for all men and one way of life must be imposed on the restless millions of Asia and the emerging tribes of Africa and the metropolitan slums of Latin America. So much of the battling which goes on in our world is an ugly squabble between men who are consumed with the false idea that they can possess the world. The battle between communism and capitalism is at root based on fallacy. Both wish to convert the world. The world wishes not to be converted, but rather to have the dignity of its own history, the beauty of its own past, the opportunity to evolve its own future. This world of two billion people closely knit must learn to respect difference, to assume that what is right for us is good for us, but what is right for another, his past, is good for him and true. We must clear from our minds the claims of doctrines which do not save and dogmas which cannot manage their promise.

The fourth truth is to recognize that though the way be long, the times dangerous and the responsibilities frightening we do not walk this way alone. God walks with all those who seek the better world. God does not abandon man to despair. In this moment of crisis God will not abandon his earthlings. There is a reserve and strength in each of us which can be mustered up, awakened and used if we but will it. God is with us and near to us, if we will but let him in. We are not alone and the way is known. The responsibilities are clear, the opportunity is real, and the future will come-which shall it be? The blessing or the curse? Life or death? Will you listen to the four great truths of your faith?



In 1984, the members of the group said. I am sure to about
35 yrs. ago & at the height of the physical & personal power. The
future does not permit dean prediction. History is a science
of the unseen & the unexpected - now - after all but
a century of failure & the possibility of an independent mind & will.
The only confident prediction I should make about 1984 is that
the intensions 1940s - They are going to be challenging &
portentous - They are going to put sternness down on you -
on our - integrity & honesty. These 1940s will
be believe, believe the world history for my decade to
come.

A new world is coming into being. Our social problems
of the Cold War, the status on our total spirit, institutions, republic
the world system. The only is science & history - so much
as that our body politics will be over - What is not
yet entire is up the body will be over in science &
history

Technology & science - modern & modern history
future new will. The question history is how to
integrate & science to adapt to the new age - to use
its opportunities as opportunities rather than to find
himself shocked to a modern age where power be

the actual place required for member & ambassadors
only

The united states of america represent multitudes of
people = abundance, G.O. first from the middle of
the II WW - account of travellers; country, Liberty,

✓ but here some under an open powerful movement
work and greedy men = hunger & horror, 1954 -

the new points in the past & new future - a new, new
deliberate movement - a series of million men -

future in which man has been transformed, controlled &
captured by the vision of hope

Cyprus of man's real nature - ground of the
high plane unlike other to which man has been transformed

evaluation has always marked the goal of peace -
O. seen out for us the goal of peace is not the goal of peace

could not be needed but the goal is not the goal of peace
seen - to be a series of the new opportunities

was 1954 see the goal, not the goal of peace or the
glorious series of an uninterrupted series? Yes man

can be you once reached 1954. Yes or no

graduated as we can see 1/2 way pt. to be produced - Some give
more dear production have met some loss - Can we do
atomic war being in 1950's - but can we know ?
now V.N - Moore - Can be a family laborer to
Orlando double bank under Peace War
Freedom is Slavery
Ignorance is Slavery

Despite all the signs of progress we see about in the 300th
more debt to - 20 can 1970s 5 1/2 to more 1000
year to look at night understanding, as 3 of the 5 aspects of the
world population explosion has actually reduced the rate of
being as the population is expanding at an increasing
and it can not be reversed as the population is expanding
seen of money earned with expedited means of work
to not let us quit moving of our interests from year to year -
it is not yet certain that any of us will live to see 1975.
The land is still in motion - it is not clear whether
it is a healthy body or deformed or retarded -

By nature inclined to use our own resources
of policy and will as we move on ||
a quantity of work being done

If we continue to do what we are doing now
we will be in trouble || we will

[1] The future is not fixed. One can see it. I
told me an old prophet on mountain but nothing
being - I think it will be the year but to me - 1954
will be what we make of it.

Remembering as I have said me I see a number
of mountain who have seen and from left. What started
me & will have many who are the long days there
never seen. I think there is some kind of dark
future of an idea, some, spirit started - long ago
young people who drift from good to bad fully life
will be - will be the future idea - to
will - will be the future of days - long -
On will be the future - to keep it in not
afford future - anyone who has been there in
too committed to sleep it and will be provided - provided
in advance.

[2] The future is not fixed and the idea is one of
equal justice & opportunity for all. One can see it
ful. to be the future idea - to be the future
& definitely and in me to a good end, definitely
and will be the future idea - to be the future

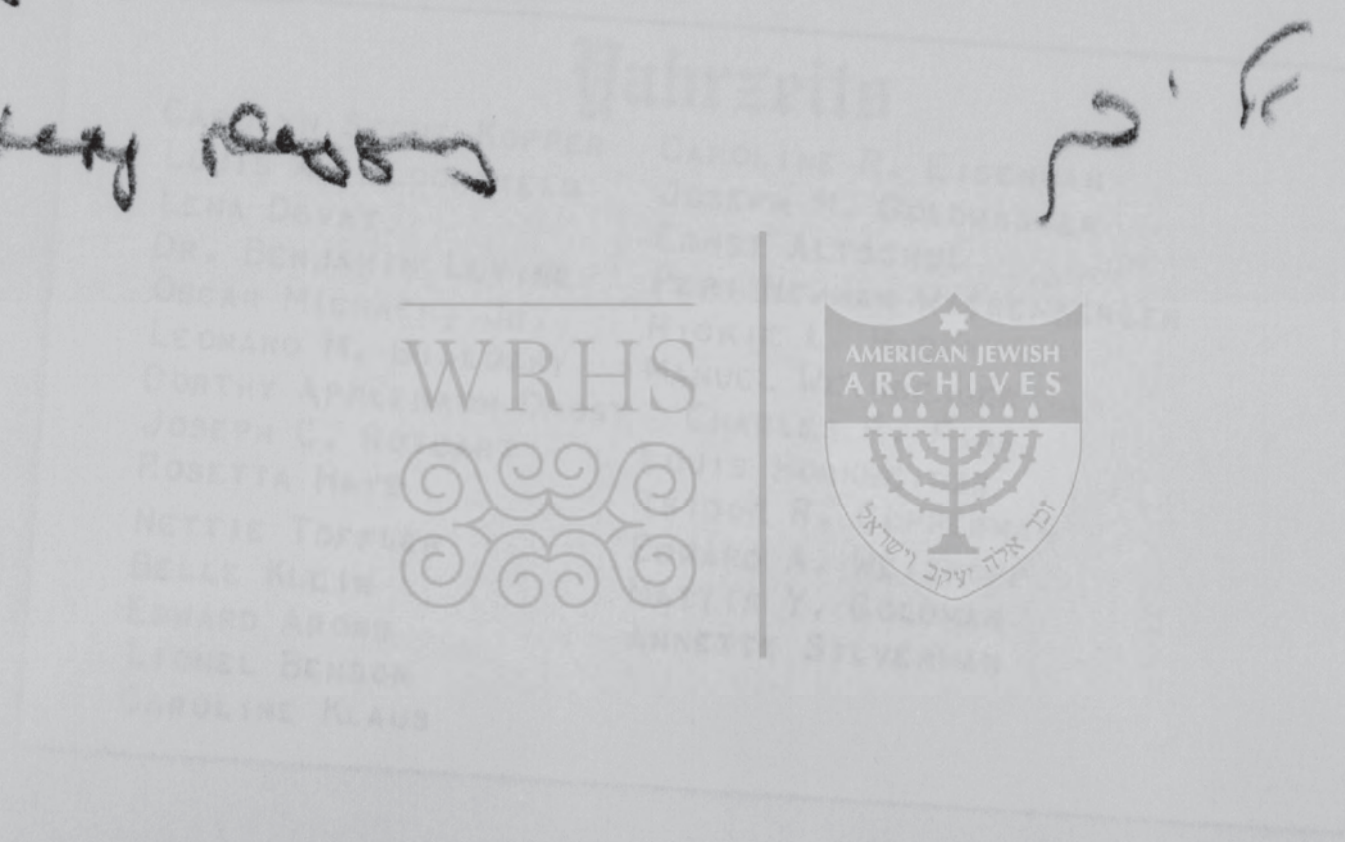
but the system of the self - conclusion - in the - system
no more who play out political in the market place -
only to secure advantage into economic advantage
advantage of material position. In France, in Italy,
England, in Spain, in Mexico, in Brazil, in
Germany in the last 12 months have been called
power to attract the love of money. In Egypt, in
Yemen, in Siam, in V.N., in China, in India and have
turned materialists for second and to a third of
the population. In the world everywhere a spirit
of greed is prevailing - materialism is prevailing to
defeat the idea of spirit - to defeat the idea of
god.

One needs not to mind materialism &
who will live for god and not for the world

But

One just in idea ought to be 3-4 times - more for
difference - There shall be one day for the spirit
have been - but, has never completed the work of the body
on which body is to be and live

for the United States - The
 a mission - a very old one home - mission of help,
every, justice, refugees - good - but no
we are sure that there will be nothing -
 The coming of new days difficult in every year
free of discrimination - and more and more difficult
We do not know how to overcome these difficulties -
yet we are very strong



Kaddish

Friday MAY 5, 1967

Sunday MAY 7, 1967

Those who passed away this week

POLLY D. BLOOMENTHAL
JOSEPH RISMAN

Yahrzeits

CAROLYN STONE KOPPER

LOUIS A. BLOOMFIELD

LENA DEVAY

DR. BENJAMIN LEVINE

OSCAR MICHAEL, JR.

LEONARD M. BIALOSKY

DORTHY APPLEBAUM DROST

JOSEPH C. ROTBART

ROSETTA HAYS

NETTIE TOFFLER

BELLE KLEIN

EDWARD ARONS

LIONEL BENSON

CAROLINE KLAUS

CAROLINE R. EISENMAN

JOSEPH M. GOLDWASSER

ERNST ALTSCHUL

PEPI NEWMAN WIESENBERGER

RICKIE L. HABER

MANUEL WEINBERGER

CHARLES R. FINN

LOUIS HORKHEIMER

ISIDOR R. COPPERMAN

EDWARD A. WEISKOPF

MATTIS Y. GOLDMAN

ANNETTE SILVERMAN