



## 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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The Year in Review, 1989.



## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

1988 was a year full of surprises. The first surprise was a series of natural disasters: Typhoon Gilbert which ravaged the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Central America and exacted a terrible loss of life/ the devastating carnage caused by the earthquake in Armenia--<sup>25</sup>~~50~~,000 lives lost, whole cities reduced to rubble/ floods which reduced the clay towns of Bangladesh to quagmires/ the drought which ravaged American farms and fields/ forest fires in the Yellowstone and throughout the West. If you believe in portents, you would have said that nature was warning us of worse to come.



Not being a worry wart and recognizing that natural disasters tend to follow cyclical patterns, I prefer simply to note their occurrence and the speed with which most in our world forgot the pain and the suffering of ~~these~~ <sup>THE PEOPLE</sup> most immediately affected. In the end these disasters were reduced to a quickly forgotten headline rather than becoming a catalyst for taking care of those who had been cruelly handled by nature. Those disasters might have been the beginning of a concerted effort to do what can be done to ease mankind's exposures to the unpredictable cruelties of nature; ~~but they were not. The disasters were not the beginning of a concerted effort to do what can be done to ease mankind's exposures to the unpredictable cruelties of nature.~~ <sup>BUT THEY WERE NOT.</sup> ~~oans the erosion of shore lines, and the rising temperature of the atmosphere.~~ Some responded, but not enough.



There were 2 billion earthlings the year I was born. There are today 5.1 billion earthlings. That number should double in 40 years. The world has never had to endure such a population explosion and there is a clear and present danger that such an exponential growth of the human population will doom the earth as a human habitat. Certainly, the extrusion of human and industrial waste/air, sea, and land pollution, and the population explosion, all compound the earth's ~~environmental~~ problems.



Man must unlearn some of the lessons which made possible the development of civilization. It is no longer a question of having more but of having enough-- of finding ways to survive with the numbers that now exist. Scientists estimate that there will be between 8 and 14 billion people by mid-century. Our earth cannot support the pressures of such numbers without a major lowering of everyone's standard of living. We must be able to provide not only sufficient food and space but an opportunity for people to fulfill their destiny. Yet, there is the inexorable equation: the more people, the less opportunity.



The number of illiterate and semi-literate adults increases every year by at least 200 million. Who will provide? Who will teach? Where will jobs be found? In our world nearly half of those now alive are 16 years of age or younger. The world's infrastructure has not kept pace with our medical and technological advances, and given the figures we now face, probably will not be able to catch up. In the long haul, there is danger of famine, of space saturation, and of massive illiteracy in a world which requires trained minds. The world seems to be waking up to these basic problems, but whether or not it is too late remains to be seen.



Not all the surprises in 1988 represent setbacks on the road to the future. One of the great surprises of 1988 was the continuing evidence of a change of heart by the Russian leadership, Glasnost and Perestroika, the freeing of major parts of the Soviet economy from central controls, the freeing of the Russian press to criticize some Communist ~~decisions~~ <sup>POLICIES</sup>, and even some willingness to go along with the first world <sup>λ</sup>-exemplified by the recently signed INF Treaty, the ~~in~~ Soviet ~~unilateral~~ Union's unilateral decision to cut conventional forces in Europe, and to eliminate their stockpiles of poison gas.



Mr. Gorbachev has been in power for nearly 4 years and his positions have led to significant internal debate. The Soviet economy is in trouble. The standard of living of the Russian people has fallen steadily. Recently, Mr. Gorbachev said as much in a speech to top leaders of the Communist Party, the press, and academia, "~~the~~ the severe shortages of food and consumer goods that now preoccupy the country reflect not the failure of our program but the legacy of the past--especially decades of huge budget deficits that were hidden from the public." He called for sharp cuts in government spending, including reductions in the military budget and <sup>REDUCED</sup> subsidies to inefficient industries.

quote



quotes "The question is so acute that we will have to look at our spending on defense," Mr. Gorbachev said. "Preliminary studies show that we can cut it without lowering the level of security and the country's ability to defend itself."

"Some people are increasingly nostalgic for the good old days," he said. "Conversations are heard that the country needs a firm hand. Such sentiments are displayed not only in the realm of emotions and feelings, but are taking on a certain philosophical and even political outline. The Soviet Union must open up its economy and listen to the workers as well as to the central planners."



Marxism and Leninism have not been able to make good on their promises. Year after year the citizens of the Soviet Union have had less rather than more. Gorbachev wants to reverse that process. Whether he is able domestically to do what needs to be done remains to be seen. But it is true that after decades of cold war there seems to be some reason for mankind to hope for something better than belligerent confrontation. To achieve Gorbachev's goals, the Soviet Union must learn to trade and get along with the rest of the world. The bottom line is trade, not war.



Economic pressures in the Socialist bloc have not been limited to the Soviet Union. China has been for most of the last decade on a path which aims to free much of its economy. The Warsaw Pact countries, particularly Hungary and Poland, are now aping the Soviet Union. It is not that Socialism is dead but, rather, that it is being married to a new pragmatism.

It will not be easy. The super powers must put aside encrusted habits and show a willingness to exploit the still young, still partial, arms reduction agreements. But if we can get over our fears and the Soviet Union can get over theirs, our world may be much closer to peace than at any time in recent years.



Unfortunately, there is plenty to remind us that the old battling world still persists. The nations continue to arm at a frenetic pace. 5 new countries have built chemical warfare facilities in the past 5 years. 3 more nations ~~now~~ have become ~~the newest~~ members of the atomic club. 22 active wars were fought in 1988 at a cost of half a million lives. To be sure, the big wars--the decade-long struggle between Iran and Iraq, the struggle of the Russians to have their way in Afghanistan, and the presence of Cuban troops in Angola--seem about to end. Iran and Iraq ~~have~~ stopped fighting in 1988, but this past year the Iraqi government killed 10 thousand of its own Kurds.



This past year <sup>THOSE</sup> ~~the~~ 22 military actions each cost 1 thousand or more lives. 7 of these were caused by ethnic strife: Iran, Chad, India, the Sudan, Burundi, Sri Lanka, and Iraq. 7 were the result of actions by the political Left: El Salvadore, the Phillipines, Guatemala, Peru, Burma, Colombia, and Nicaragua. 3 were caused by Right Wing groups: Angola, Afghanistan and Mozambique. 3 were the result of territorial ambitions: Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon. 2 were fought for domestic dominance: Somalia and Cambodia. 1 was for independence: the Eritrean struggle against Ethiopia.



In other words, the world is very much what it has always been, a place of unrelenting and unceasing struggle for dominance, power, and independence. Fortunately, the major powers are no longer actively involved in many of these activities. The United States ended the year by shooting <sup>DOWN</sup> 2 Libyan planes. The point is that they were Libyan and not Russian or Chinese.

~~WHILE~~ these wars were smaller than the major power struggles, they were nonetheless dangerous. The larger nations have long made a good living from the sale of sophisticated arms to smaller states, ~~where~~ Dissident groups now control such sophisticated equipment. Still, the world could breathe a little easier in 1988.



The United Nations had a good year. After 7 years of peace talks led by the U.N., the Soviet Union agreed on April 15 to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan, and they seem determined on carrying this out. On the basis of a plan mediated by the Security Council, Iran and Iraq ended their 10-year old war. In December South Africa, Angola, and Cuba, under the auspices of the United Nations and the United States, signed an agreement providing for Namibian independence and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Africa. Mr. De-Cuellar initiated peace moves to end the conflict in the Western Sahara fought by Moroccan forces against Algerian-based polisario guerillas, and he also



secured agreement on October 24 from Greece and Turkey to hold talks aimed to unify the island. None of these arrangements are yet secure--some are still in the discussion stage. There are still Russians in Afghanistan. The Persian Gulf could blow up any minute. The South African Accords ended fighting between Angola, Cuba and South Africa, but not the civil war in Angola.

In September the 10-thousand member United Nations peace-keeping force won the Nobel Peace Prize, not so much for what they had done but for what they symbolized. It was a deserved honor in 1988. The world community regained some of its dignity.



I have not yet spoken of the Third World issue which is closest to us, the struggle between Israel and the Palestinians. Despite the scary headlines, the Arab-Israeli conflict was not one of the 22 wars which those who catalog such matters noted ~~this~~ ~~war~~. A war, according to their definition, involves the death of a thousand or more. The Intefada took only 330 lives, despite its daily headlines.



In the Middle East Arabs continue to fight against Arabs in the Lebanon.

Syria and Libya continue to destabilize the world by acts of sabotage and terrorism.

Israel has been forced to fight a year-long struggle against the Intefada, young Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza who throw stones and throw up temporary blockades against Israeli troop<sup>s</sup>/~~movements~~ in the occupied areas. The Intefada has proven a great public relations coup for the Arabs and a problem of control for the Israelis. It's not been a pleasant problem, but it's not one that is unmanageable. However, the nations of the world seem to be lining up for some kind of enforced negotiations between Israel and the Arabs, negotiations which could be the cause of much political mischief.



Let's end this year in review with a word about drugs and disease. No surprises here. **AIDS** continues to be a major concern with everyone. There is as yet no cure. Drugs and drug-related equipment seem to be a major cause for the dissemination of **AIDS** as well as a major source of income for Third World growers and distributors and First World sellers. Man's capacity to do himself harm seems to be enhanced by the great sums of money available to those who grow and transport and sell cocaine, crack, and ~~the~~ other drugs. If you want to weep for mankind, weep for this evidence of human blindness.



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THE WORLD REMAINS MUCH AS IT HAS BEEN; A GROUP OF NATIONS CLUTCHING FOR PROFIT AND FOR PEACE. WE SEEM TO HAVE MASTERED SOME OF THE BIG-POWER CONFRONTATIONS, & WE ARE ALL THE SAFER BECAUSE OF THAT. BUT THE SMALLER WARS HAVE BECOME MORE DANGEROUS. SMALL COUNTRIES & REBEL GROUPS CAN ARM THEMSELVES WITH MISSILES & NUCLEAR WARHEADS.

THE SCENE HAS CHANGED BUT NOT OUR HOPES. WE HAVE SO FAR AVOIDED THE CATAclysm. WE MUST EXPECT, AT THE VERY LEAST, MORE OF THE SAME BUT IT NEED NOT MEAN DISASTER ON A COSMIC SCALE.

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THE CHALLENGE IS TO USE OUR STRENGTH AND OUR WILL INTELLIGENTLY AND PURPOSEFULLY. IF WE DO, THERE IS EVERY REASON FOR HOPE.

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| SUN   | MON  | TUES  | WED  | THURS                                    | FRI   | SAT  |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| <b>JANUARY 1</b><br>NO TRS<br>COFFEE HOUR<br>9:30 am Branch<br><b>SERVICE</b><br>10:30 am Branch<br>Rabbi Kamin<br>"89 Reasons to Pray" | <b>2</b><br>NO TRS                               | <b>3</b><br>TWA BRANCH<br>10:00 am Activities<br>11:00 am Torah<br>and Today<br>Noon Luncheon<br>TYA BOARD MTG.*  | <b>4</b><br>NO TRS   | <b>5</b>                                 | <b>6</b><br><b>SERVICE</b><br>5:30 pm Main Temple<br><b>FIRST FRIDAY</b><br>7:30 pm Branch **<br>"Legend of<br>Sleepy Hollow" | <b>7</b><br>TUTORIALS RESUME   |
| <b>8</b><br>TRS RESUMES<br>COFFEE HOUR<br>9:30 am Branch<br><b>SERVICE</b><br>10:30 am Branch<br>Special Music<br>From Modern Israel    | <b>9</b><br>TRS RESUMES                          | <b>10</b><br>TWA BRANCH<br>10:00 am Activities<br>11:00 am Torah<br>and Today<br>Noon Luncheon<br>1:00 pm Program<br>Outreach Presentation<br>of "Intermarriage:<br>When Love Meets<br>Tradition."<br>TEMPLE BOARD MTG.<br>8:00 pm Branch | <b>11</b><br>TWA BOARD MEETING<br>10:30 am Branch<br>TRS RESUMES   | <b>12</b>                                | <b>13</b><br><b>SERVICE</b><br>5:30 pm Main Temple  | <b>14</b>  |
| <b>15</b><br>COFFEE HOUR<br>9:30 am Branch<br><b>SERVICE</b><br>10:30 am Branch<br>Rabbi Silver<br>"The Year in<br>Review"              | <b>16</b><br>Martin Luther<br>King Day<br>NO TRS | <b>17</b><br>TWA BRANCH<br>10:00 am Activities<br>11:00 am Torah<br>and Today<br>Noon Luncheon<br>TRS BOARD MTG.<br>7:30 pm Branch  | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b>                                | <b>20</b><br><b>SERVICE</b><br>5:30 pm Main Temple<br><b>FAMILY SABBATH</b><br>Temple Choir Hosts<br>7:30 pm Branch           | <b>21</b><br>TU B'SHVAT  |
| <b>22</b><br>COFFEE HOUR<br>9:30 am Branch<br><b>SERVICE</b><br>10:30 am Branch<br>Rabbi Haim<br>"Enjoying the<br>Fruits"               | <b>23</b><br>T.E.F.T.Y. MTG.<br>5:30 pm Branch   | <b>24</b><br>TWA BRANCH<br>10:00 am Activities<br>11:00 am Torah<br>and Today<br>Noon Luncheon  | <b>25</b><br>OUTREACH<br>Panel Discussion<br>"Issues of<br>Interfaith<br>Relationships<br>for Parents<br>and Grandparents"<br>7:45 pm Branch | <b>26</b><br>ARZA MTG.<br>7:30 pm Branch | <b>27</b><br><b>SERVICE</b><br>5:30 pm Main Temple  | <b>28</b><br>BAR MITZVAH<br>Justin Horwitz<br>11:00 am Main Temple<br>*Not at Temple<br>**Note time change |