



## 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 IV: Writings and Publications, 1952-1992, undated.

Sub-series B: Other Writings, 1952-1992, undated.

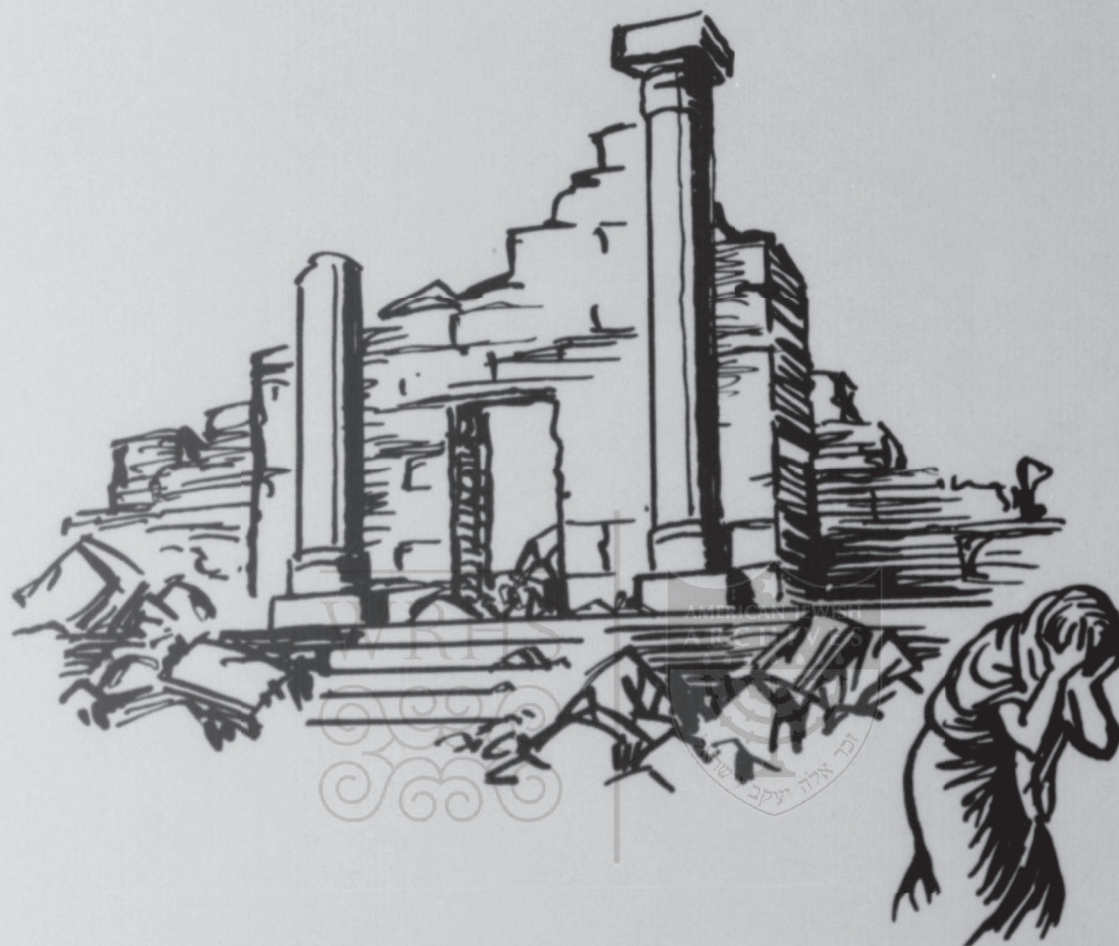
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Research notes, Lamentations, notes, undated.





Lamentation



586 we have seen news a body you for the Jews. The army of  
Melchisedek - his Babylonian <sup>conquered</sup> ~~captured~~ Jader, captured Jerusalem,  
and burnt the sacred Temple. Thousands upon thousands were  
killed or taken into exile.

Queen was left a widow. ~~The~~ <sup>the</sup> Jewish D.P.'s were filled with  
grief and sorrow. Like <sup>most</sup> ~~all~~ refugees they had been able to save little  
but memories of a bright past forever gone. The people of Egipt



who lived with the refugees in the new Babylonian home (all as well)  
"By the rivers of Babylon we sat down and wept when we remembered  
Zion".

These were among those who survived the destruction of 586 some who  
were extremely ~~able~~ <sup>able</sup> ~~weak~~ <sup>weak</sup> and poor. In our Bible we have 5 of the  
poems which were written to express the grief of the people of Israel  
over what had happened.

These 5 poems have been collected into one book which we call  
Lamentation. ~~(The Book of Lamentations)~~ <sup>because of the</sup> ~~fact~~ <sup>fact</sup> of ~~poetry~~ <sup>poetry</sup> which  
they are. ~~The book~~ In Hebrew this book is called Eicha (How)  
because the first line of the first poem asks the rhetorical question  
how can Jerusalem once so filled with people - once so full of  
inhabitants - (now so empty and ruined)

These poems are ~~mountainous~~ moving. We can <sup>almost see</sup> ~~really feel~~ the tears  
which came into the people's eyes as they think of all the hard  
things that have happened and wonder why it all happened.

~~You can read these poems right off. Remember that it is poetry not  
prose and that you must feel what is being said rather than~~

Despite his grief, the poet <sup>knows</sup> ~~thinks~~ why it has happened. The fault is  
ours. We sinned against God. We did not listen to the prophets.  
We did not obey the 10 C's.

What hope is there. There is hope - at least a little hope. If we give  
now of course we are angry, <sup>admit</sup> ~~see~~ these mistakes, and return to God.  
Then surely God will forgive and enable us to look forward to days  
of good and happy as those that once were.

It is also of interest that the first 7 of these poems are written  
in a particular poetic style which is called acrostic - That  
means that the author has seen to it <sup>that the first</sup> ~~that the first~~ line of every



begin with ~~some~~ A and end each subsequent name begins with  
the next letter of the alphabet. We do not often see such a poetic form  
today, but it was once very popular and was considered the true  
test of a writer's genius.

### Some suggestion on reading & annotation

You can read this book without needing outside help. Remember when  
it was written and that it is poetry. This means that you should read  
for the mood rather than ~~for~~ <sup>with</sup> ~~any~~ concern for specific detail.

### Some ideas worth discussing

The author of the 3<sup>rd</sup> poem dauntless "God had done not  
unselfishly given a afflict mankind". That is God had ~~given~~ <sup>given</sup> us  
pain and illness often for our ~~own~~ <sup>long run</sup> benefit. Can you think of  
examples where there is true? Can you think of examples where  
pain or illness is not doing us any good?

