

4-208

CONGREGATION KODIMOH

17-208

SPRINGFIELD 8, MASSACHUSETTS

N.Lamm

Seventh Day Passover

April 2, 1956

1. Song of ^Red Sea main content today's reading.....ends on a glorious note - but not, as one would expect of a martial victory song, one of conquest or hero worship or bold self-assertion, but rather in a lofty religious affirmation: HA'SHEM YIMLOCH L'OLAM VA'ED - The Lord will reign forever and ever.
2. This great phrase, repeated twice at the conclusion of the SHIRAH, is more than a mere last-verse. It is, as we shall see, the keynote of the entire immortal Song and, in essence, expresses the eternal appeal and quality.... ...for sandwiched between SHMA and SHMONE ESREI ...daily... SHIRAH CHADASHA SHIBCHU GEULIM, a new song did the redeemed from Egypt sing LESHIMCHA, to Thy Name AL SFAS HAYAM, at the shore of the Red Sea, YACHAD KULAM HODU VEHIMLICHU, they all in unison gave thanks and proclaimed thy sovereignty saying, HASHEM YIMLOCH.... So that we daily repeat that the key verse of the entire song of Moses is that last verse, HASHEM YIMLOCH...
3. The significance of that fact and emphasis must not escape us, for it is a message directed straight at us, a message which is bound to warm the hearts of those who are fearful and to act as a beacon of light to those whose minds are darkened in gloom.
4. What is that message, contained in the four words HASHEM YIMLOCH...? Let us remember that frequently in our prayers have this expression as part of a 3-fold declaration: HASHEM MALACH... MELECH...YIMLOCH... Past, present, future.
5. Easy enough say H.MALACH...once...dive into past for glory of Judaism, J.people...Egypt, Sinai, Babylon, Golden Age Spain, Eastern Europe Obvious to anyone with a mind supported by a heart that H.MALACH. J.History stands out as glorious affirmation G-d's Kingship, vitality of Torah, relevancy our people.
6. More difficult, but still easy, say H.MELECH. Who possibly lived through lowest point our saga, holocaust of Europe, and so soon afterwards Creation State, Israel, without being moved to proclaim in worshipful reverence H.MELECH?...followed quick events 1948 and saw living miracle, saw state survive & thrive where all laws of nature and rules military science demanded its defeat and extinction, H.MELECH? How many us, thinking about relevance religion our lives, think that although more true that H.MALACH, was more real parents & gr-parents, nevertheless still true H.MELECH, that we occasionally do feel a twinge of our consciences, a spark in our hearts, a deep love well up, even if only rarely, for Torah and all that it stands for?
7. But how different when it comes to H.Y. How often the best and wisest of us try to pierce curtain uncertainty hanging over future, come up with prophecy doom: TORAH IS LICKED; ORTHODOXY DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE. I've heard it from countless people - those who are in truth loyal Torah, love Judaism, had H.MALACH - pious parents, also H.MELECH, selves ardent workers....yet sink into a tangible gloom and pervasive pessimism when thinking future. Just can't rise up to affirmation of H.Y.
8. Series 2 articles Nathan Glazer in Dec. & Jan. COMMENTARY: revival Jews, not revival Judaism.... very little traditional piety in actions... but then makes one statement completely unfounded: "Trad. J piety as expressed in observance ritual dead or close to dead in America; the traditionally observant J is almost as much a curiosity in many J communities as in the community outside. "Medieval world is shattered & Orthodox Judaism is only a museum object as far as overwhelming majority American Jews are concerned". What a whale of a statement, what a terrific generalization for supposedly scientific sociologist to make! What a pitiable soul who can say H.MALACH in medieval world, H.MELECH only in Wmmsburgh as museum piece, & absolutely no H.Y.!

9. Is in answer to this kind gloom, to this brand prophecy doom which sometimes uttered with a cheerful note, but is echoed some of us with brooding and impending sense tragedy, is in answer to this that Moses rose to the crescendo Song and sang out in a voice reaching out across centuries and ~~ee~~echoing in this very chamber: H.Y.L.V.!

Cicero told us we were a museum-type curiosity heading straight to extinction. But H.Y.L.V. We outlived ten Roman Empires!

Antiochus destroyed Temple, thought he sounded death-knell. HYLW. His Greece lives only in the ruins of Athens and dusty text-books while we thrive as the same Jews!

Titus robbed our Temple, plundered Jerusalem and built himself an arch middle Rome and on it wrote what he thought was obituary Jsm: Hierosolyma est perdita.... But we responded with the rising challenge HYLW - Titus' Rome and his Italy have forveer lost their glory, while today Jerusalem is being rebuilt.

Hitler threatened a 1000 years of Nazi domination of Europe and utter extermination all Jews world like so many rodents. Was our answer to despair? to throw up our hands and throw in the towel? to accomodate him by casting away all our pride, self-respect, loyalty? NO, NO, 6 MILLION TIMES NO! Out of the blood and ashes of Dachau and Treblinka we formed a MEDINAT YISRAEL. ... HYLW.

10. He who despairs is foolish. He who writes off Orthodoxy is in for a big surprise. There is more vitality in the marrow of the bones of Torah than in allrest world combined. G-d was King. He is King. And He shall remain King.

Melancholia and chronic pessimism has no place in our hearts. The Jew may be a short-range pessimist but he is invariably a long-range optimist. If true H.MELECH, is so only because we have always staked our very lives, our faiths, squarely on thise 4 words HYLW.

No, Prof. Sociologist Nathan Glazer, you are sorely mistaken. So, "Trad J piety as expressed in observnc J ritual dead in Amrca"? Well you should have been here first two days Pesach, & today & tomorrow, to witness the revival of Birchas Kohanim, & I wonder if you could have said that with straight face..... "Trad. Obsrv J curiosity J cmnty"? Perhaps someone ought to enlighten you about an Orth J, Marshall by name, who is Premier of Singapore. Or Yeshiva University (also Med School)....or number Kodimoh memmers attending United Brotherhood with yarmelkes...."Orthdx Jsm museum object". Well, my good doctor, we ought to take you on a tour of Spfld Hebrew Day School, see the vitality andenthusiasm and progress of that school. Quite a bit of activity for a museum, Dr.Glazer!...Rather surprisingly active mummies, Professor! ... Or our Bnei Mitzvah - museum keepers must be rather unhappy with mummies hopping all over shul on Shabbos and Yom Tov. Sorry, doctor, but your good curator going to quit his job unless you can keep your museum more dusty and quiet!

You see, Dr.Glazer, and Glazers all over America including Commnetary itself and even Spfld, you have failed to reckon with rejuvenative powers released when Jew recites SHIRAH: HYLW... We refuse to go away and die. We refuse to write death-warrants our faith. No one is going to embalm Torah. We are here to stay. And we shall thrive. HYLW.

11. SHIRAH CHADASHA SHIBCHU GEULIM...our redemption depends on how well we can learn the new song. YACHAD KULAM HODU VEHIMLICHU...may the day come when KULAM, all Jews will join in YACHAD, in unison and harmony, to affirm the royalty of G-d and the brightness of the future, with the immortal words, HYLW....

(Drash given truly by Kuch in name Levintal)