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**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

**MS-53: Moses J. Gries Papers, 1850-1934 (bulk 1890-1930).**

Series D: Sermons and Addresses, 1893-1917, undated.

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“New Year's Morning,” 1913 October 2.

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American Jewish Archives website.

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RABBI GRIES, AT THE TEMPLE, NEW YEAR'S MORNING,

October 2nd, 1913.

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What solution is there to the perplexing Jewish problem? There seems no escape from Russia in spite of the hunted exiles fleeing to every land. Despotism Russia still holds the fate of the half of all Israel, five to six millions of people, under her cruel yoke.

There will be no release from Jewish misery and no lifting of the Jewish yoke and burden until Christianity shall become regnant in Christian states and throughout Christendom.

The Jew will not cease to live as Jew; deserters and traitors and cowards there will always be. His answer to Russia has been given through thirty years of loyal steadfastness in spite of iniquitous persecution; his answer to the world has been given in patient martyrdom and unflinching faith through thousands of years.

Is not the Jew's life work done? Was not a new spirit proclaimed to humanity nineteen hundred years ago? Why does he continue to live in blindness and to grope in darkness? Why does not the Jew surrender and cease to be?

Never will he surrender until mankind ends man's inhumanity to man and the nations cease injustice to nations. The world needs the presence and the spirit and the message of the Jew and his historic Jewish plea for justice and humanity.

When the Jew insists upon religious freedom he is proclaiming the right of conscience, he is fighting the age-old struggle against persecuting church and oppressive state. His supreme responsibility is to God on high. When the Jew demands civil rights, fully and equally, without limitation or discrimination or disability, he is waging the battle for human freedom begun in the dawn of organized human society and not yet completely won even in lands of freedom.

The right to human freedom is not dependent upon the grace and favor of kings. It is inborn and inalienable, rings our American Declaration. Human freedom, civil and religious, may be established by the decrease of states, but it is deeper rooted in the divine relationship. *direct rulership*

The ethical imperative, higher than all legislative enactments, is born of the faith that, supreme over president and congress, over emperor and reichstag, over czar and douma, is God, King of kings, ruler over all mankind.

There is needed no new revelation of the moral law



but a new proclamation and a new obedience. The moral law has not changed materially, not all the wisdom of all the ages has brought improvement. There has been no advance in the moral world comparable to the progress in the physical and intellectual realm.

by The Ten Commandments are still fundamental. The prophetic ideals still express the hopes of which the finest spirits of our age are wistful dreaming. New applications there are, and changing interpretations of the moral law. The world today knows no clearer ethics and offers no truer religion than the teaching of Law Giver and Prophet.

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